SUPERMAN®
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS®
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WOLFINGHAM— HOW COULD YOU SELL THE EARTH TO THAT ALIEN?
CASH DOWN, M'BOY! ONLY WAY TO DO BUSINESS!
SOLD
1935
50
DC
1985
HENDER & ANDERSON

FANS CHOOSE DC COMICS!

The Comics Buyer's Guide recently polled comic book fans around the world about their favorite books and writers. With more than 5900 respondents, it was the largest such survey in comic book history. The results were surprising.

- **Favorite cover:** (*New Teen Titans* #1*)
- **Favorite stories:** ("The Judas Contract" in *Tales of The Teen Titans* #42-4, Annual #3* "Who Is Donna Troy?" in *The New Teen Titans #38* "The Anatomy Lesson" in *Swamp Thing* #21*)
- **Favorite direct-only book:** (*The New Teen Titans*)
- **Two of three favorite books:** (*The New Teen Titans* and *Swamp Thing*)
- **Two of three favorite writers:** (Alan Moore and Marv Wolfman)
- **Four of nine favorite characters:** (Ambush Bug*, Batman*, Nightwing*, and Swamp Thing)

When informed of the results of the poll, DC Vice President-Executive Editor Dick Giordano said, "We're working to make our books the best. It's gratifying to know the fans recognize and appreciate that. We thank them."

DC Comics. 50 years old and still the newest.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS ISSUE'S STORIES OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE DRAMATIC EVENTS NOW APPEARING IN CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS.
AFTER A WEEKEND'S SPACE-EXCURSION, THERE'S NO MORE WELCOME SIGHT TO SUPERMAN THAN THAT OF HIS ADOPTED PLANET--USUALLY!
EITHER MY SUPER-VISION HAS GONE HAYWIRE--OR SOMETHING CATASTROPHIC HAS HAPPENED TO THE EARTH WHILE I'VE BEEN AWAY!
I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
METROPOLIS FINANCIAL CENTER
AND AN UGLY BOTTOM IT IS, TOO!
J. WILBUR WOLFINGHAM!
LISTEN, YOU CONNIVING, TWO-FACED, SHIFTY, DOUBLE-DEALING, UNDER-HANDED FLIM-FLAM ARTIST!
YOU COULD STEAL THE HUB-CAPS OFF THE SPACE SHUTTLE IF YOU PUT YOUR TWISTED LITTLE MIND TO IT!
YOU'D MAKE HOUDINI LOOK LIKE AN AMATEUR WHEN IT COMES TO PERFORMING VANISHING TRICKS --WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S HARD-EARNED CURRENCY!
S-46715
BUT HOW DID YOU PULL THIS ONE OFF? HOW?!?
1

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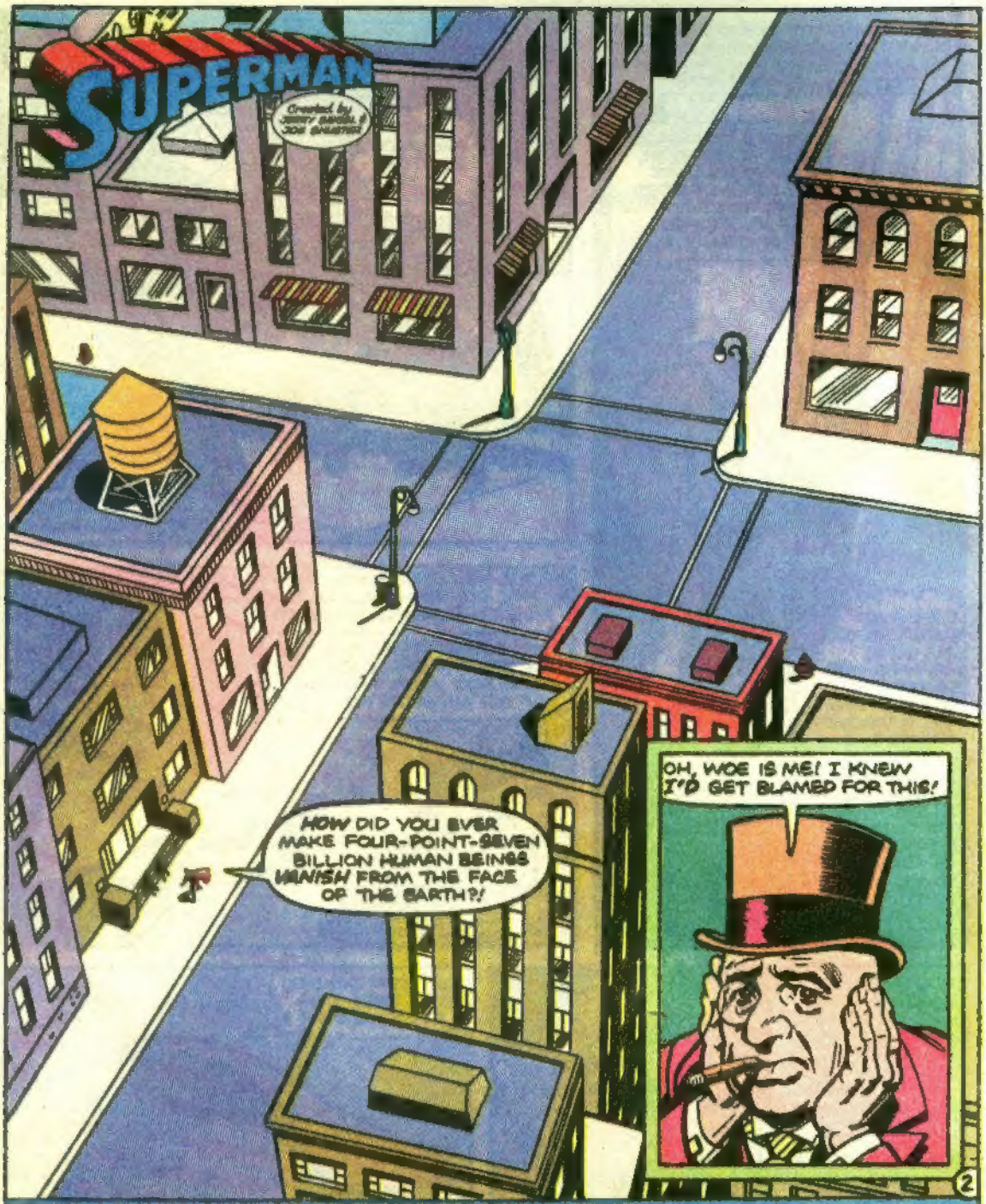
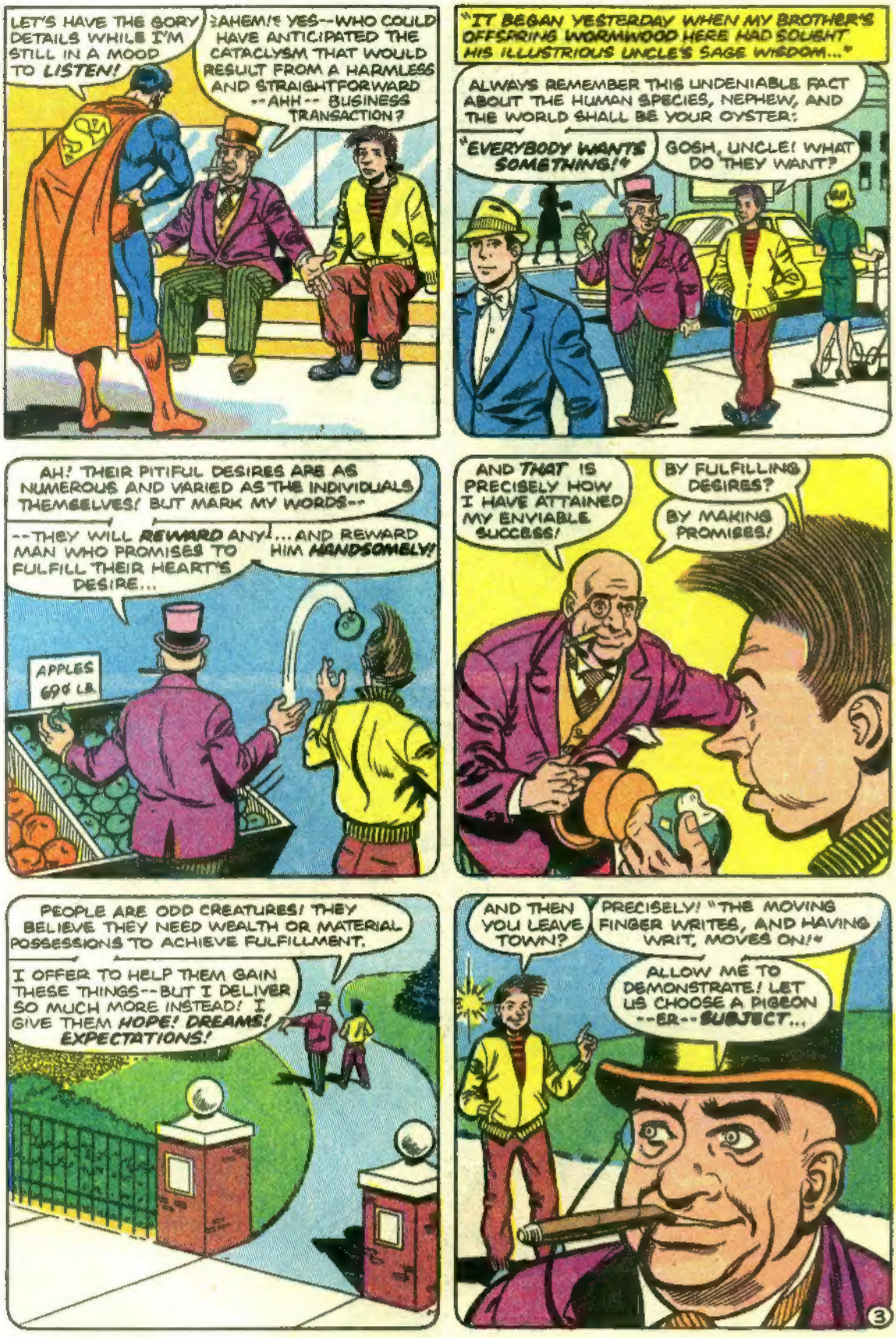

SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
HOW DID YOU EVER MAKE FOUR-POINT-SEVEN BILLION HUMAN BEINGS VANISH FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH?!
OH, WOE IS ME! I KNEW I'D GET BLAMED FOR THIS!
2

WOULD EARTH'S GREATEST CHAMPION EVER JOIN FORCES WITH THE PLANET'S MOST MISBEGOTTEN MISCREANT? PUT THAT QUESTION TO **SUPERMAN** OR **J. W. WOLFINGHAM** AND THE RESPONSE MIGHT BE, "NOT IF WE WERE THE LAST PEOPLE ON EARTH!" BUT THEY'D BE SPEAKING A BIT TOO HASTILY--FOR JUST SUCH A DRASTIC MEASURE IS REQUIRED TO PUT A HALT TO...

"The SALE of the CENTURY!"

CRAIG BOLDMAN WRITER KURT SCHAFFENBERGER PENCILLER BOB OKSNER INKER

DUNCAN ANDREWS LETTERER GENE D'ANGELO COLORIST JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR


LET'S HAVE THE GORY DETAILS WHILE I'M STILL IN A MOOD TO LISTEN!
AHEM!? YES--WHO COULD HAVE ANTICIPATED THE CATACLYSM THAT WOULD RESULT FROM A HARMLESS AND STRAIGHTFORWARD --AHH-- BUSINESS TRANSACTION?
"IT BEGAN YESTERDAY WHEN MY BROTHER'S OFFSPRING WORMWOOD HERE HAD SOUGHT HIS ILLUSTRIOUS UNCLE'S SAGE WISDOM..."
ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS UNDENIABLE FACT ABOUT THE HUMAN SPECIES, NEPHEW, AND THE WORLD SHALL BE YOUR OYSTER:
"EVERYBODY WANTS SOMETHING!"
GOSH, UNCLE! WHAT DO THEY WANT?
AH! THEIR PITIFUL DESIRES ARE AS NUMEROUS AND VARIED AS THE INDIVIDUALS THEMSELVES! BUT MARK MY WORDS--
--THEY WILL REWARD ANY MAN WHO PROMISES TO FULFILL THEIR HEART'S DESIRE...
...AND REWARD HIM HANDSOMELY!
APPLES 69¢ LB.
AND THAT IS PRECISELY HOW I HAVE ATTAINED MY ENVIABLE SUCCESS!
BY FULFILLING DESIRES?
BY MAKING PROMISES!
PEOPLE ARE ODD CREATURES! THEY BELIEVE THEY NEED WEALTH OR MATERIAL POSSESSIONS TO ACHIEVE FULFILLMENT.
I OFFER TO HELP THEM GAIN THESE THINGS--BUT I DELIVER SO MUCH MORE INSTEAD! I GIVE THEM HOPE! DREAMS! EXPECTATIONS!
AND THEN YOU LEAVE TOWN?
PRECISELY! "THE MOVING FINGER WRITES, AND HAVING WRIT, MOVES ON!"
ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE! LET US CHOOSE A PIGEON --ER--SUBJECT...
3

THAT MAN IN THE HIPPIE JACKET! WE SHALL DISCOVER WHAT SECRET DESIRE HE HARBORS!
GEE! I DIDN'T SEE HIM A SECOND AGO!
A GRACIOUS GOOD MORNING, MY FINE FELLOW!
MIGHT I HAVE A WORD?
GZG WOR! ENG VOG
A FOREIGNER! THAT WILL MAKE OUR TASK A BIT MORE OF A CHALLENGE!
MY NAME IS BAX! PLEASE STAY WITHIN THIS COMMUNICATIONS LOOP--
--IT REDUCES WORDS TO BASIC CONCEPTS WHICH OUR MINDS CAN EASILY ABSORB AND ASSIMILATE!
GODFREY!
I HAVE BEEN ADMIRING YOUR PLANET FROM AFAR!
HE WAS AN ALIEN? WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHAT COULD I DO? BEAT HIM WITH A STICK AND POSSIBLY START AN INTERPLANETARY WAR? NO, I SOUGHT TO GAIN HIS CONFIDENCE--
--AS I WOULD WITH ANY WIDE-EYED, NAIVE STRANGER!
GROAN! YOU TRIED TO FLEECE HIM!
I'LL IGNORE THAT INSULT!
IT'S TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN I AM LEFT GROPING FOR WORDS...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

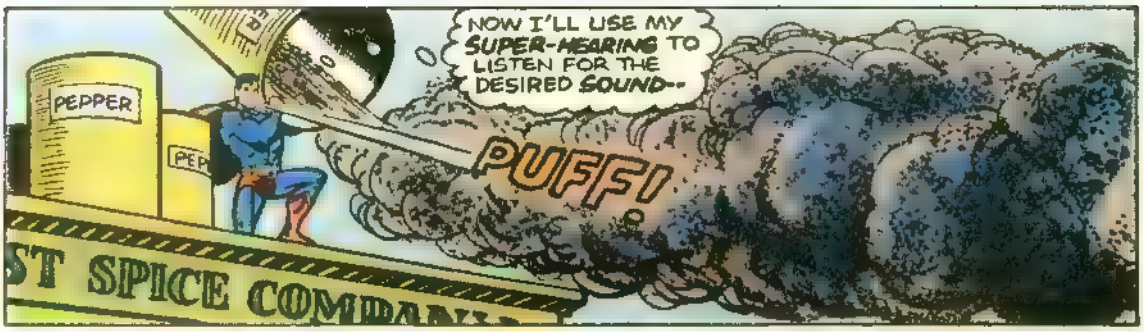
"... MY BUSINESS INSTINCTS RUSH TO THE FORE FRONT TO FILL THE VOID!
"I BEGAN TO REGAIN MY COMPOSURE..."
EGAD! DARE I--?
IF I SUCCEEDED, I'D BE FOREVER IMMORTALIZED AS THE PATRON SAINT OF CONFIDENCE MEN!
SO, YOU'VE TAKEN A SHINE TO MY LITTLE PLANET, HAVE YOU?
YES, IT IS A RARE AND LOVELY FIND--
DID YOU SAY... YOUR PLANET?
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF--J. WILBUR WOLFINGHAM! BUSINESS CONSULTANT--PHILANTHROPIST--SPORT--RESIDENT OF PLANET EARTH AND ZAHEM6 PROUD OWNER!
AMAZING! THE ENTIRE GLOBE--YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY!
EHH--FOR THE NONCE! I'M SEEKING TO UNLOAD! THE RESPONSIBILITY IS A BIT OVERWHELMING FOR A GENTLEMAN OF MY--AH--GOLDEN YEARS!
YES, IT'S TIME THE FINE PEOPLE OF EARTH HAD A NEW FIGUREHEAD! SOMEONE YOUNG! VITAL! SOMEONE WITH A FRESH OUTLOOK WHO CAN OFFER NEW IDEAS!
SOMEONE LIKE...
SAY!
HOW'S THIS FOR A NOVEL IDEA?

GREAT KRYPTON! YOU SOLD THE EARTH RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER OUR FEET!
YOU PULLED THE OLD "BROOKLYN BRIDGE" SCAM ON A GALACTIC SCALE-- YOU WEASEL!
...MUCH LIKE PRESENTING HIM WITH THE KEY TO THE CITY!
BUT YOU NEVER SUSPECTED THAT YOUR "HARMLESS" ALIEN HAD THE POWER TO TAKE POSSESSION OF HIS NEW "PURCHASE"!
IT WAS A--AH-- SYMBOLIC GESTURE...
YOU'RE GETTING AHEAD OF ME!
"I HAPPENED TO HAVE AN ALL-PURPOSE PROPERTY AGREEMENT ON MY PERSON..."
"I ASSUME HE MET YOUR PRICE?"
"AHH--IN GRATITUDE, HE OFFERED A SMALL HONORARIUM. IN THE INTERESTS OF INTERPLANETARY DIPLOMACY, I ACCEPTED."
IT WAS AFTER WE COMPLETED OUR TRANSACTION THAT HE REVEALED HIS TRUE COLORS--
..."THE COLORS OF A HOSTILE ALIEN INVADER!"
REGRETTABLY, YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE MUST NOW EVACUATE MY PROPERTY!
HA! HA! WHAT'S THIS, YOU SAY?
NOT TO LAUGH! I HAVE PLANS FOR MY NEWLY ACQUIRED PROPERTY WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE YOU OR THE OTHERS OF YOUR RACE!
THIS WILL SHIELD US...
MMM-M-M-M-M-M
6

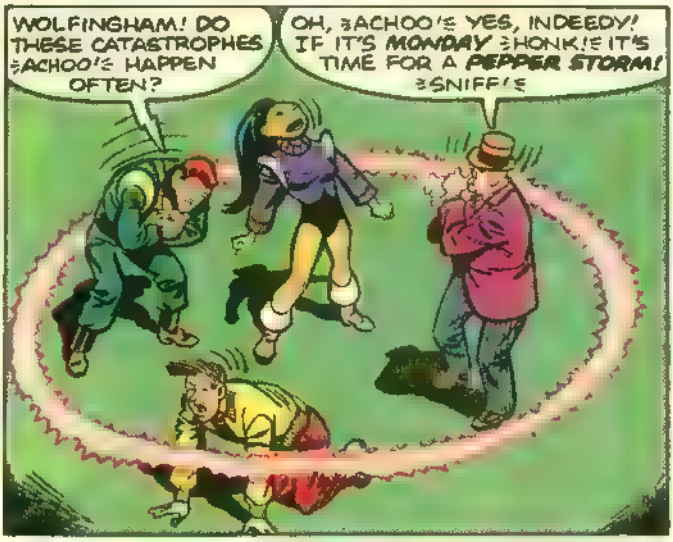
...FROM THE DIGITIZER BEAM ON BOARD MY ORBITING SPACE-CRAFT!
"ITS POWER WILL TRANSFORM YOUR PEOPLE INTO SIMPLE ENERGY IMPULSES--"
WGBS
--AND STORE THEM IN THIS HOLDING CUBE! THEY MAY BE RESTORED LATER--
--ON YOUR NEW HOME PLANET, WHEREVER IT MIGHT BE.
CONSIDER THIS TO BE A NOTICE OF EVICTION! I SHALL EXPECT YOU TO BE OFF MY PROPERTY WITHIN ONE DAY!
BUT-- BUT--
SO HE WASN'T THE "COUNTRY BUMPKIN" YOU SUPPOSED, EH, WOLFINGHAM?
WELL, AT LEAST THE HUMAN RACE IS SAFE ...FREEZE-DRIED, BUT SAFE!
AND YOU CAN THRASH THE BLACKGUARD UPON HIS RETURN!
NOT SO FAST! IF YOU SIGNED A CONTRACT--
--WHICH MEANS NOTHING! I WASN'T THE REAL OWNER OF THE PLANET, AFTER ALL!
DO YOU WANT TO ARGUE IN SOME OUTER-SPACE COURT THAT YOU CHEATED HIM?
GULP!
7

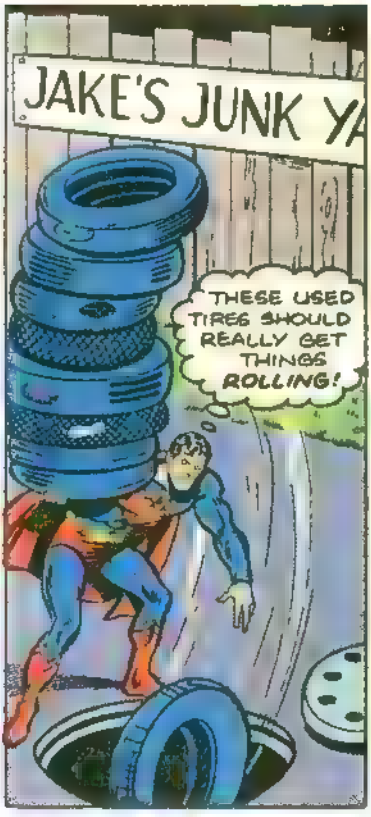
I SUSPECT HE JUST WANTED SOMEONE TO BLAME IF HE GOT CALLED ON THE CARPET FOR HIS SLEAZY TACTICS! FACE IT, WOLFINGHAM--
--HE SAW YOU COMING A LIGHT-YEAR AWAY!
I CAN'T GUESS WHY BAX WANTED OUR HOME, BUT IF WE'RE TO GET IT BACK WITH THE LEAST MUSS AND FUSS-- WE'LL NEED TO COME UP WITH A LITTLE SCAM OF OUR OWN...
...PARTNER!
EGAD!
LATER...
AH! THE PIGEON RETURNS TO THE ROOST--WITH COMPANY!
I FIGURED HE'D MATERIALIZE AT THE SAME CONTACT POINT AS BEFORE. THAT'S MY CUE TO EXIT!
YOU SEE, ZAZZBUS? THIS LOVELY PLANET IS FREE FROM THE RADIATION THAT RAVAGES YOUR WAR-TORN WORLD!
I AM SURE THAT WE CAN STRIKE A DEAL!
OH, WOLFINGHAM! ARE YOU STILL HERE?
MILES AWAY, SUPERMAN EAVESDROPS...
I THINK I UNDERSTAND! BAX IS A SORT OF INTER-GALACTIC REAL-ESTATE AGENT!
HE FINDS NEW WORLDS FOR CIVILIZATIONS WHOSE OWN PLANETS ARE NO LONGER HABITABLE!
HE CAN TRANSPORT WHOLE RACES OF BEINGS WITH HIS DIGITIZER GIMMICK! A WORTHWHILE PROFESSION, I SUPPOSE...
...BUT HE'S ON A PAR WITH WOLFINGHAM IN THE SCRUPLES DEPARTMENT!
BAX WILL SOON LEARN THAT EARTH IS NO BARGAIN!
8
CONTINUED ON 2NP PAGE FOLLOWING

LOOKS LIKE BAX'S RAY BROUGHT ALL MACHINERY TO A HALT! SMART--HE WOULDN'T WANT MILLIONS OF OUT-OF-CONTROL CARS MESSING UP HIS LANDSCAPE!
AH! THIS DAIRY FACTORY IS WHAT I NEED!
HMM--WE WILL WANT TO LEVEL THESE ARCHAIC DWELLINGS AND REBUILD ƷOOOK'E
THWOP!
WHAT HIT ME?
I HAVE NO IDEA! ƷOOOK'E
THWAP!
EGAD, WHAT TERRIBLE WEATHER! WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS THREE OR FOUR TIMES A WEEK!
REMARKABLE!
SPLOP
SPLAP!
WITH THE POWER OFF, THIS ICE CREAM WAS MELTING ANYWAY. I'LL REPLACE IT LATER--IF OUR PLAN SUCCEEDS!
MMSOOOMM
VANILLA
RHUBARB RIPPLE
STRAW
CHOCOLA
TUTTI FRUTTI
AFTER THE "DAIRY DELUGE" ENDS...
ƷOOOK'E NEVER IN ALL MY SPACE-TRAVELS HAVE I--NOW WHAT?
A DUST STORM?
9


NOW I'LL USE MY SUPER-HEARING TO LISTEN FOR THE DESIRED SOUND--
PEPPER
PUFF!

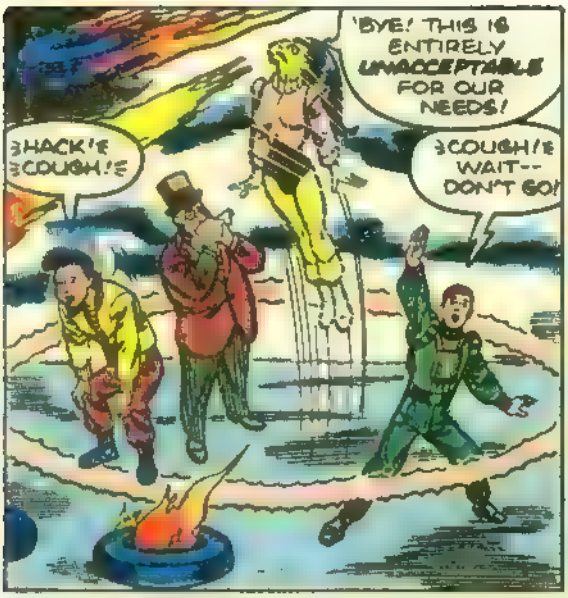
WA-CHOO!
AHH-CHOOO!
KA-CHOO!
THAT'S THE ONE!
AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE FOUR UNDESIRABLES HAS A TICKLISH NOSE!


WOLFINGHAM! DO THESE CATASTROPHES ƷACHOOƸ HAPPEN OFTEN?
OH, ƷACHOOƸ YES, INDEEDY! IF IT'S MONDAY ƷHONK!Ƹ IT'S TIME FOR A PEPPER STORM!
ƷSNIFF!Ƹ

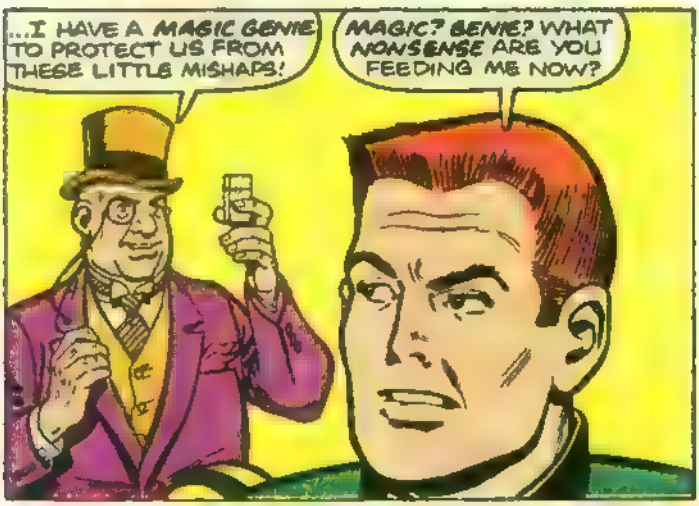

JAKE'S JUNK YA
THESE USED TIRES SHOULD REALLY GET THINGS ROLLING!

GADFREY! ANOTHER--ER -- NATURAL DISASTER!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

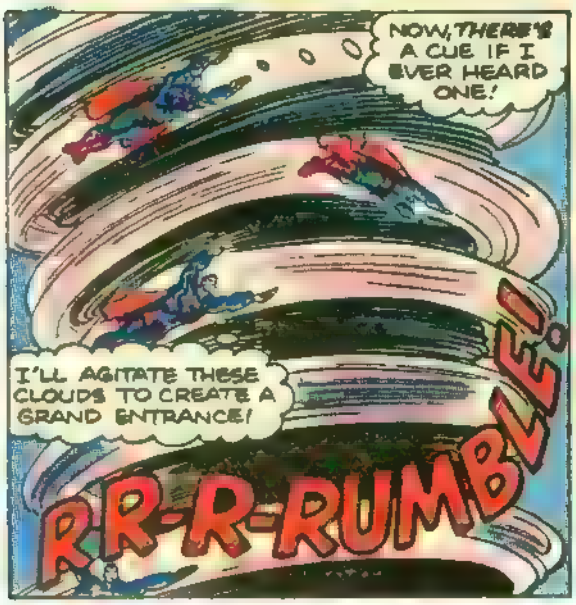
A BIT OF HEAT VISION TO TURN THE TIRES TO MOLTEN SLAG WILL ADD A FINISHING TOUCH TO THIS JOB!
10


'BYE! THIS IS ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE FOR OUR NEEDS!
}HACK'E }COUGH!E
}COUGH!E WAIT-- DON'T GO!

THIS MUST BE A TRICK, WOLFINGHAM! EARTHLINGS COULD NOT LIVE UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS!
OH, WE'RE VERY ADAPTABLE! AND, BEYOND THAT...


...I HAVE A MAGIC GENIE TO PROTECT US FROM THESE LITTLE MISHAPS!
MAGIC? GENIE? WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU FEEDING ME NOW?

NONSENSE, EH? YOU'LL SEE! HE DWELLS IN THIS ENCHANTED --ER-- DEVICE!
CLICK!
I'LL SUMMON HIM! AHH.. SHAZAM!

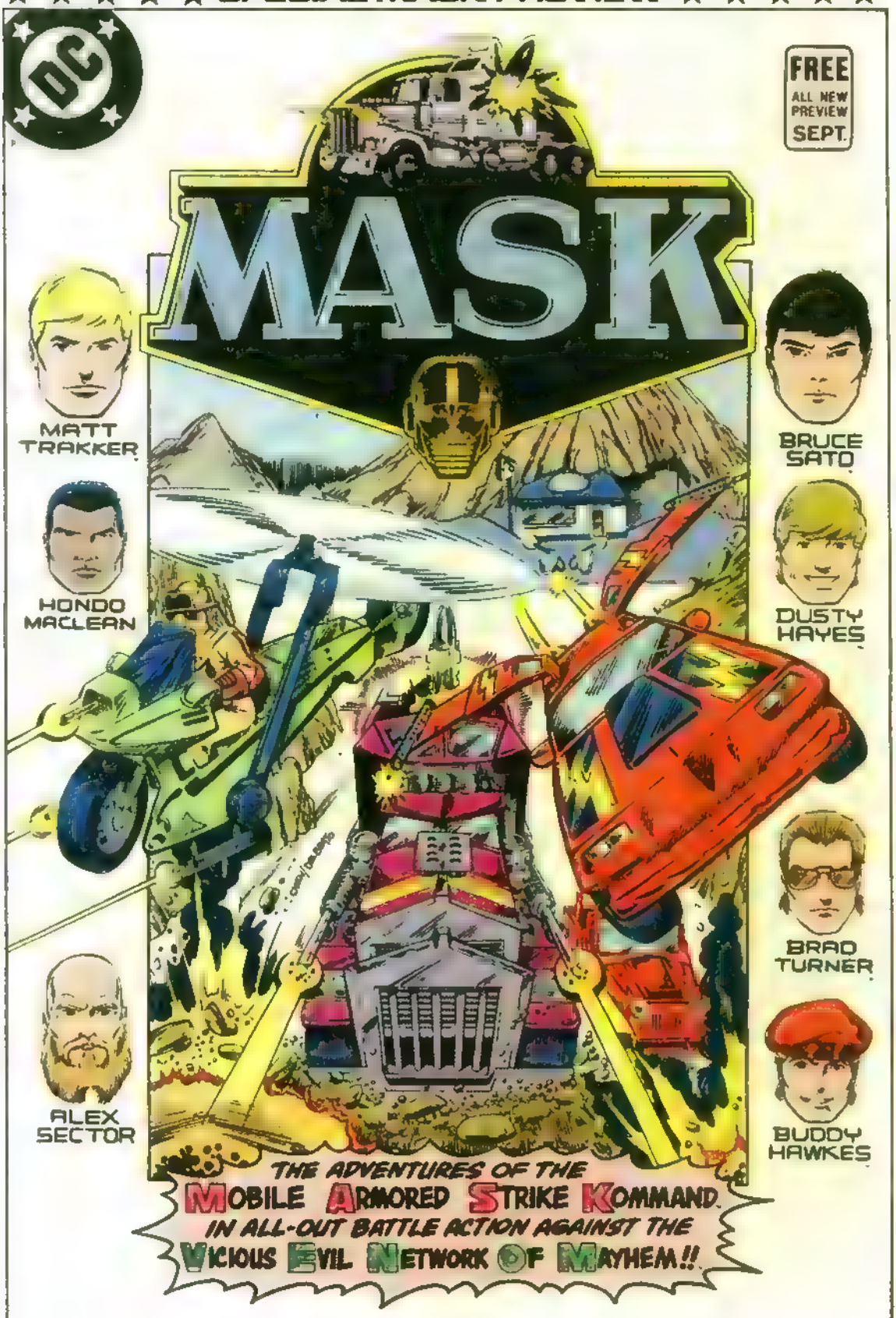

NOW, THERE'S A CUE IF I EVER HEARD ONE!
I'LL AGITATE THESE CLOUDS TO CREATE A GRAND ENTRANCE!
R-R-R-RUMBLE!

KER-RRACK!
YOU SUMMONED ME, O MASTER?

YES, SLAVE--CLEAN UP THIS DISGUSTING MESS! AND--BRING ME A MINT JULEP!
HE IS FANTASTIC! HOW DID YOU COME BY HIM, WOLFINGHAM?
OH, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN AROUND!
WHOOSH
SANITAT DEPAR
YUK! PHOOEY! SPLUT! E WHY, THAT--
AHEM! AS I WAS SAYING, THE MYSTIC TALISMAN HE CALLS HOME WAS UNCOVERED IN THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION. HE'S COMPLETELY OBEDIENT TO WHOSOEVER POSSESSES IT!
WELL, TALLYHO, GENIE! IT'S TIME WE LEFT THIS SPHERE AND FOUND ANOTHER PLANET TO START LIFE ANEW!
YES, MASTER!
HOLD IT, WOLFINGHAM!
THIS MISERABLE BALL OF DIRT IS USELESS TO ME! BUT THE POWER OF THIS GENIE WILL MORE THAN COMPENSATE!
OUT OF THE QUESTION! I WON'T SELL HIM!
NOR NEED YOU! BY OUR AGREEMENT, I OWN ALL DWELLINGS ON THIS PATHETIC PLANET--INCLUDING YOUR MYSTIC SERVANT'S!
N-NO! YOU SCOUNDREL!
12

I AM YOUR MASTER NOW! UNDERSTAND? YOU WILL OBEY ME!
NOW--WE MUST DEPART!
YES, O MASTER!
YOU BLACK-HEARTED DOG!
I SHALL RESERVE JUDGMENT ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH THIS HORRID PIECE OF REAL ESTATE!
BUT IN ANY EVENT, WOLFINGHAM--I SUGGEST YOU CONTINUE PACKING!
ON BOARD THE ALIEN'S CRAFT...
I SHALL SOON PUT THIS UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR BEHIND ME!
ALREADY MY INSTRUMENTS HAVE DETECTED ANOTHER POTENTIAL "PLANET-PROPERTY"--AND LOCATED A NATIVE WHO FITS THE PROPER MENTAL PROFILE ...
.. ANOTHER WILLING "CUSTOMER"!
AS I SUSPECTED..
...THE ALIEN GOES FROM PLANET TO PLANET, VICTIMIZING CON-MEN!
IF HE'S EVER COLLARED BY HIS PLANET'S AUTHORITIES FOR HIS SHADY BUSINESS PRACTICES, HE CAN ALWAYS CLAIM HE WAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF!
METEOR SWARM AHEAD! IT WILL TAKE TOO MUCH TIME TO NAVIGATE AROUND IT!
GENIE! GET ME THROUGH SAFELY!
I OBEY, MASTER!
BUT NOT THE WAY YOU'D LIKE!
THERE'S A HUGE METEOR DEAD AHEAD! I'LL GIVE THE SHIP A SUPER-STRONG SHOVE...
13

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SPECIAL MASK PREVIEW ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SPECIAL MASK PREVIEW ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MASK
ASSAULT ON MOUNT MAYHEM
AT WORLD-FAMED [illegible] SPEEDWAY, A LIGHTNING-SWIFT FORMULA-ONE RACER FLASHES ACROSS THE FINISH LINE.
THE WINNER BY TWO LAPS, SETTING A NEW TRACK RECORD, MATT TRAKKER!!
IN THE COCKPIT: MATT TRAKKER, WEALTHY ADVENTURER AND SPORTSMAN
SCRIPT BY MICHAEL FLEISHER • PENCILS BY MIKE CHEN • INKS BY JOE DELBEATO
COLORS BY GENE D'ANGELO • LETTERS BY TIM HARKINS • EDITED BY ANDREW HELFER

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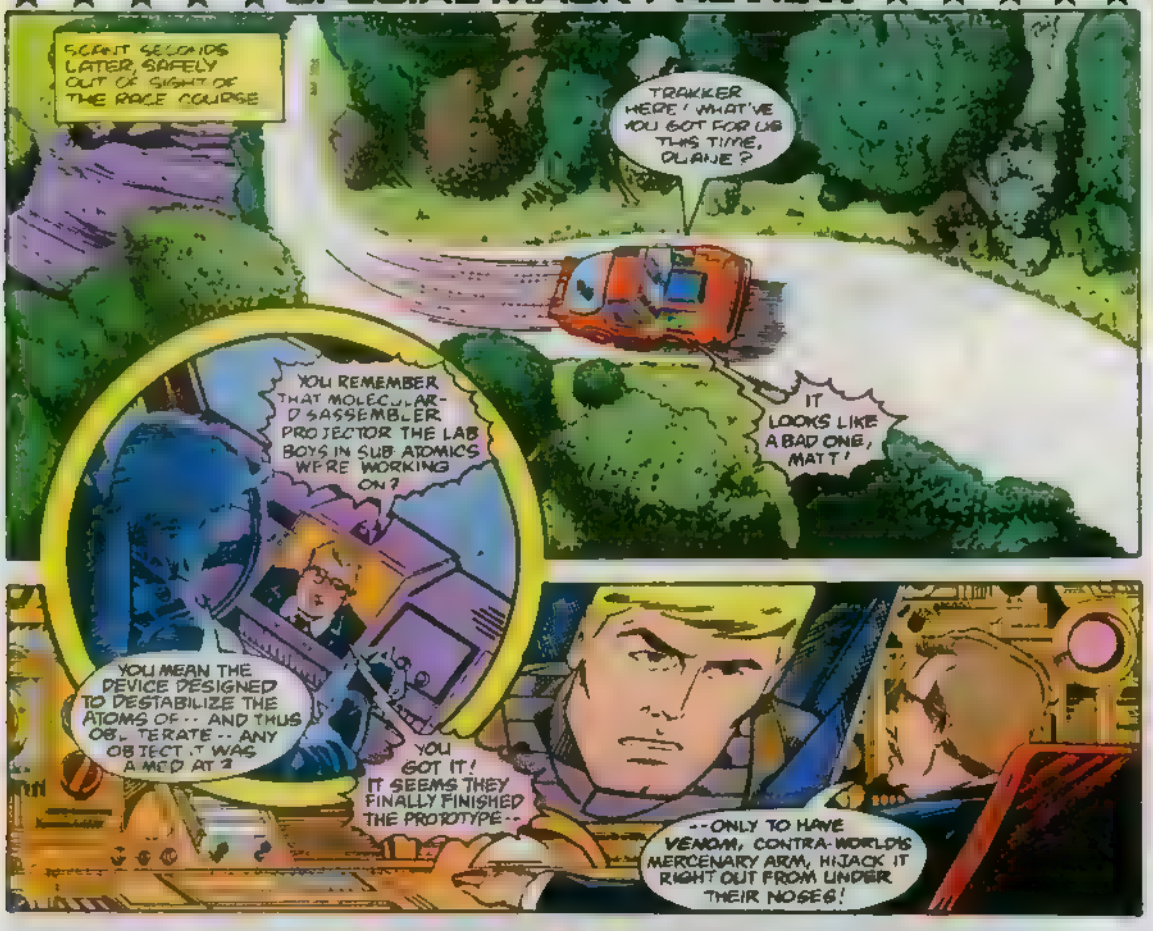
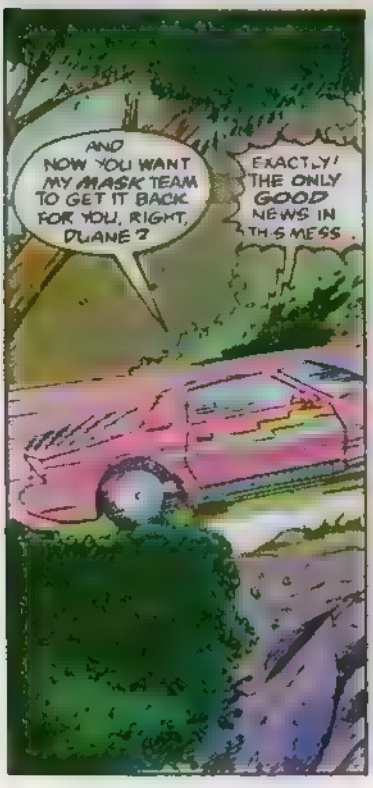
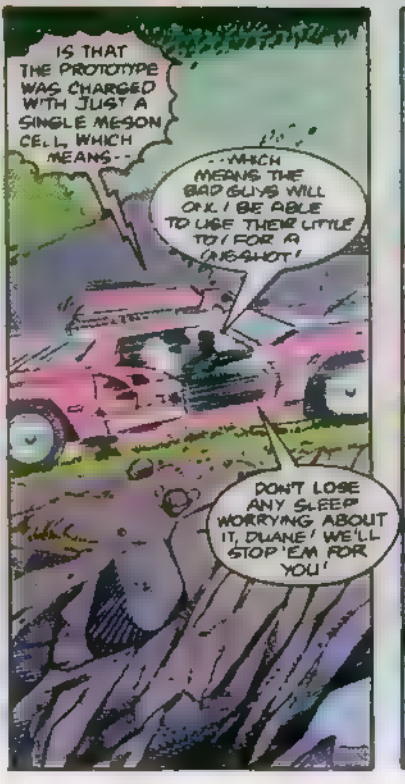
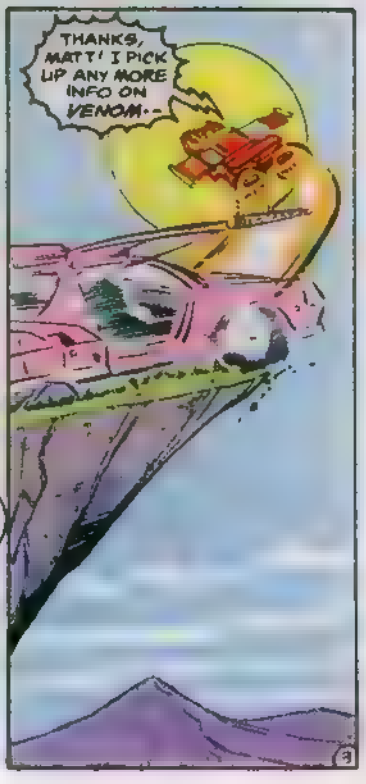
HEY, IT'S A RACE, MATT!
HURRY UP, MATT!
THANKS, OLIVE, BUT I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU FOLKS IN THE PIT CREW!
BETTER HURRY, MATT! THEY'RE ABOUT SET TO AWARD THE TROPHY!
WHY, DEVIE--?
BEEP BEEP BEEP
UH-OH! THAT'S THE THUNDERWINK'S CODED ELECTRONIC DASHBOARD SIGNAL!
ONLY ONE THING THAT CAN MEAN: DUANE KENNEDY'S TRYING TO CONTACT ME ON HUGE IT PAL'S BUSINESS!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
* PEACEFUL NATIONS ALLIANCE...ED
CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED EITHER!
HEY! WHERE THE DEVIL'S MATT OFF TO?
EXIT
IT'S BEEN A WHILE NOW SINCE THOSE CREEPS FROM CONTRA-WORLD TRIED TO PULL OFF SOMETHING NASTY AGAINST THE FREE WORLD!
VROOOM!
HEY, MATT! WHAT ABOUT THE TROPHY?


SCANT SECONDS LATER, SAFELY OUT OF SIGHT OF THE RACE COURSE
TRAKKER HERE! WHAT'VE YOU GOT FOR US THIS TIME, DUANE?
IT LOOKS LIKE A BAD ONE, MATT!
YOU REMEMBER THAT MOLECULAR-DISASSEMBLER PROJECTOR THE LAB BOYS IN SUB ATOMICS WERE WORKING ON?
YOU MEAN THE DEVICE DESIGNED TO DESTABILIZE THE ATOMS OF-- AND THUS OBLITERATE-- ANY OBJECT IT WAS AIMED AT?
YOU GOT IT! IT SEEMS THEY FINALLY FINISHED THE PROTOTYPE--
--ONLY TO HAVE VENOM, CONTRA-WORLD'S MERCENARY ARM, HIJACK IT RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER THEIR NOSES!

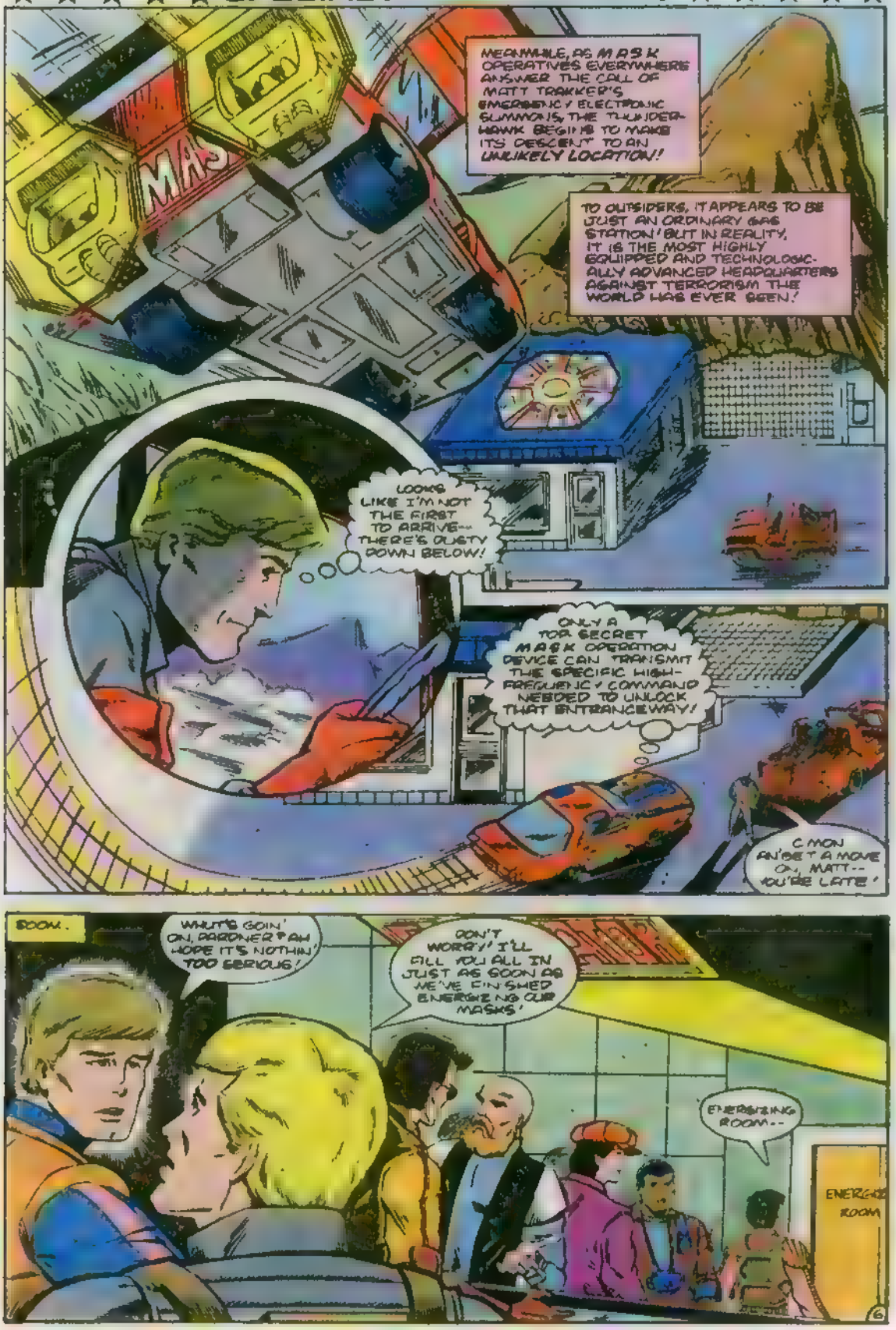

AND NOW YOU WANT MY MASK TEAM TO GET IT BACK FOR YOU, RIGHT, DUANE?
EXACTLY! THE ONLY GOOD NEWS IN THIS MESS.


IS THAT THE PROTOTYPE WAS CHARGED WITH JUST A SINGLE MESON CELL, WHICH MEANS--
--WHICH MEANS THE BAD GUYS WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO USE THEM LITTLE TO/FOR A (N)SHOT!
DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP WORRYING ABOUT IT, DUANE! WE'LL STOP 'EM FOR YOU!

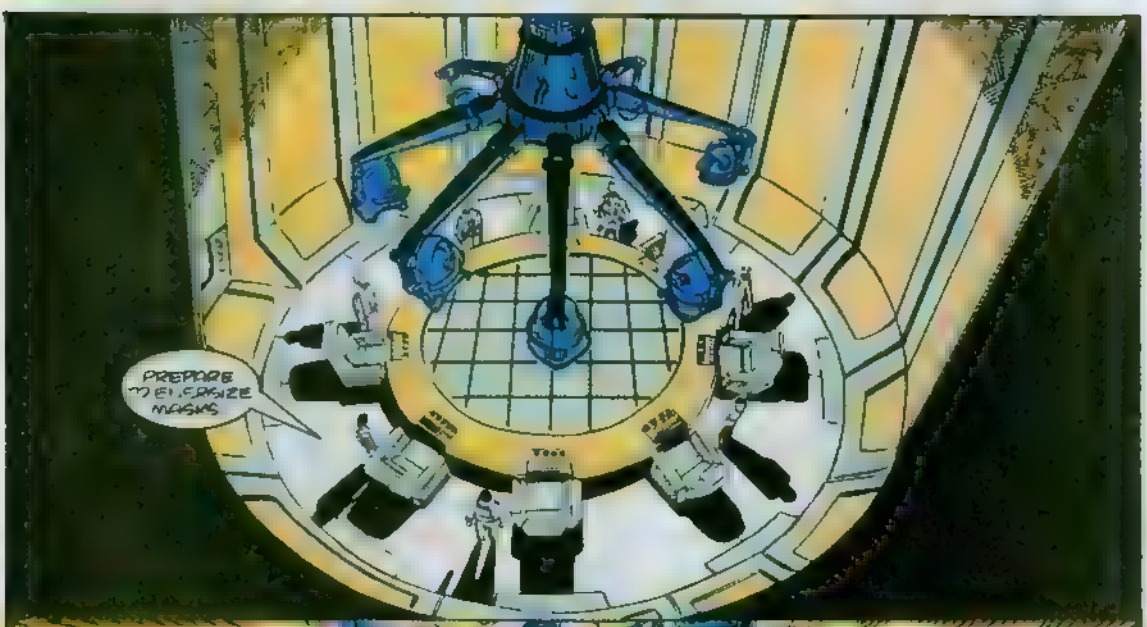

THANKS, MATT! I'LL PICK UP ANY MORE INFO ON VENOM--

-- I'LL RAISE YOU ON THE SECRET FREQUENCY! OVER AND OUT!
OVER AND OUT!
NOW THAT THUNDERHAWK'S IN JET MODE I OUGHT TO MAKE IT TO MASK'S SECRET BOULDER HILL HEADQUARTERS IN NO TIME! QUIT WHILE I'M STILL AHEADNE
I'D BETTER SUMMON THE TEAM!
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
WELL, I'LL BE HOME-FRIED AN HOG-TIED!
PIZZA HOUSE
DERN LIKE THEM VENOM VARMINTS MOVE FINALLY CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER THEIR ROCK AGAIN!
HEY THERE, DOBLIN'! I'LL WON'T MIND ROPIN' HERD ON THEM PIEG FOR AWHILE, WILL YA?
SEEMS LIKE A TRIBE OF ORNERY
HUH!?
4

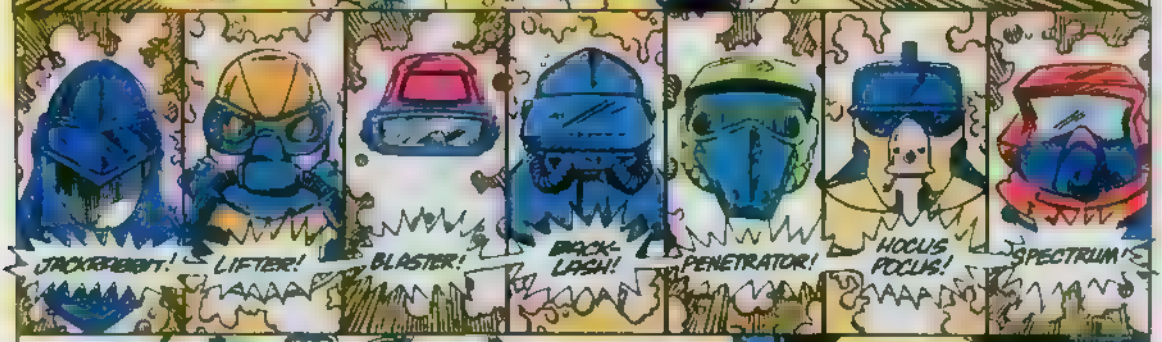
SPECIAL MASK PREVIEW
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
BRAD CHOPP
HEY! I'M AWFULLY FLATTERED YOU GUYS WANT MY AUTOGRAPH!
YOU PLAY THE BADDEST GUITAR AROUND, CHOPPER!
YEAH! NOBODY- BUT- NOBODY-- CAN PLAY MEANER RIFFS THAN YOU DO!
BEEP
UH-OH! GOTTA WIN IT!
WILY NEXT TO BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN-
WUH-!?
NOW SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE, STEVIE! YOU INSULTED HIM!
BRUCE SATO INSPIRED TOY DESIGN
OH! SO!
BEEP
ONCE MORE THE LITTLE MONGOOSE IS SUMMONED FORTH TO BATTLE THE WILY COBRA!


MEANWHILE, AS MASK OPERATIVES EVERYWHERE ANSWER THE CALL OF MATT TRAKKER'S EMERGENCY ELECTRONIC SUMMONS, THE THUNDERHAWK BEGINS TO MAKE ITS DESCENT TO AN UNLIKELY LOCATION!
TO OUTSIDERS, IT APPEARS TO BE JUST AN ORDINARY GAS STATION! BUT IN REALITY, IT IS THE MOST HIGHLY EQUIPPED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS AGAINST TERRORISM THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE FIRST TO ARRIVE-- THERE'S DUSTY DOWN BELOW!
ONLY A TOP SECRET MASK OPERATION DEVICE CAN TRANSMIT THE SPECIFIC HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMAND NEEDED TO UNLOCK THAT ENTRANCEWAY!
C'MON AN'GET A MOVE ON, MATT-- YOU'RE LATE!
BOOM.
WHUT'S GOIN' ON, PARDNER? AH HOPE IT'S NOTHIN' TOO SERIOUS!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL FILL YOU ALL IN JUST AS SOON AS WE'VE FINISHED ENERGIZING OUR MASKS!
ENERGIZING ROOM--
ENERGIZING ROOM
6

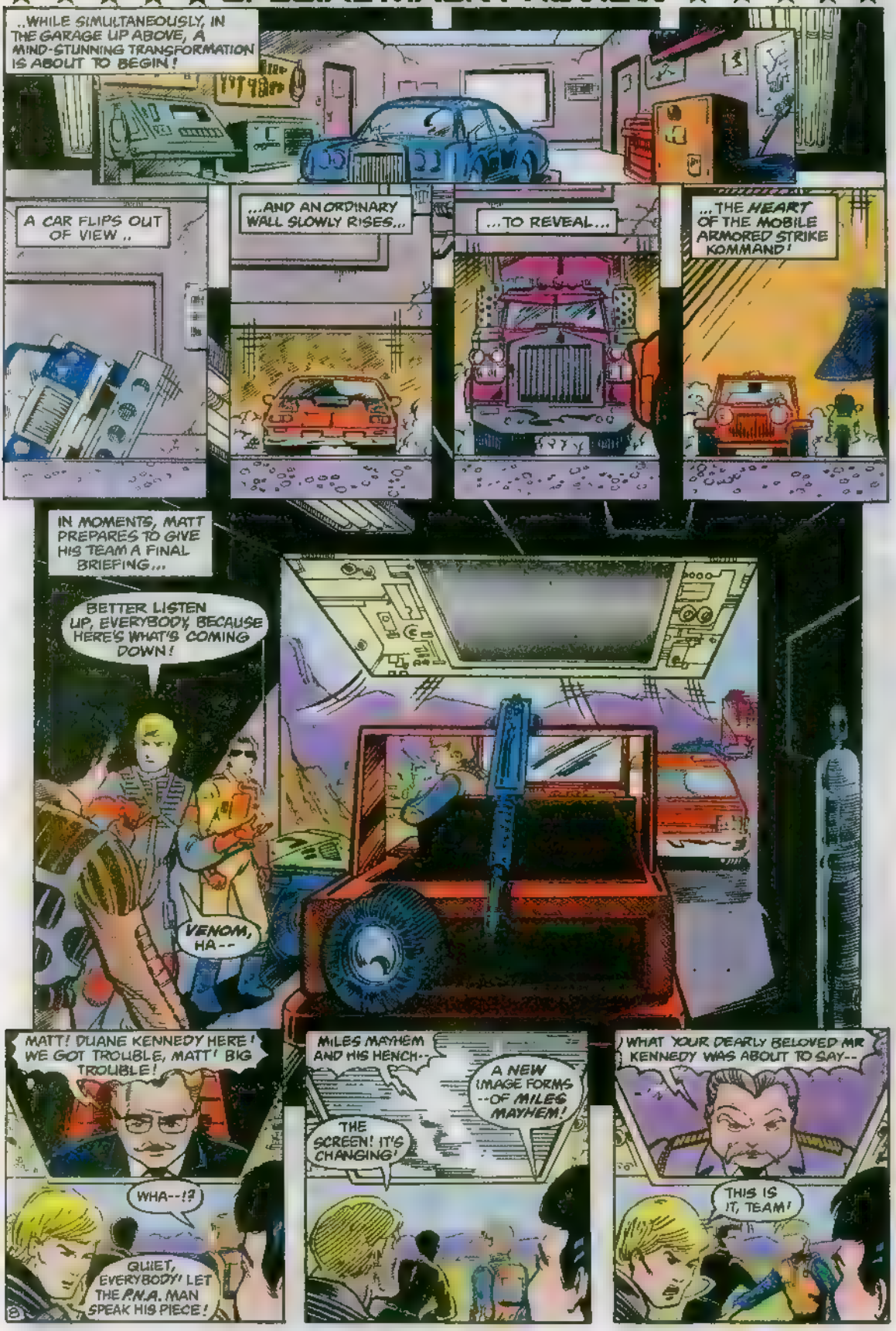
--OPEN--!!


PREPARE TO ELECTRIFY MASKS

ELECTRIFY

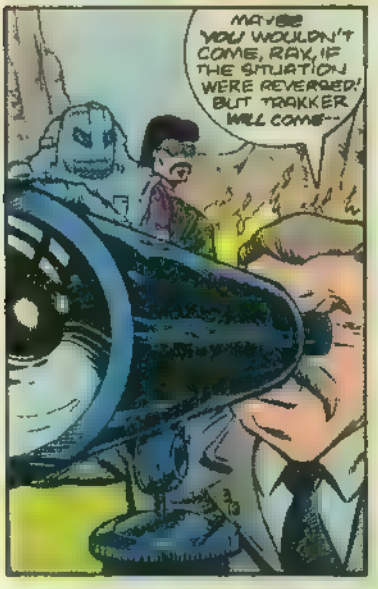

JACKRABBIT!
LIFTER!
BLASTER!
BACK-LASH!
PENETRATOR!
HOCUS POCUS!
SPECTRUM!

ALL RIGHT TEAM HERE WE GO!
NOW AN EERIE ELECTRONIC HUM FILLS THE ROOM AS THE FLOOR BENEATH THE MASK MEMBERS BEGINS TO RISE


..WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY, IN THE GARAGE UP ABOVE, A MIND-STUNNING TRANSFORMATION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
A CAR FLIPS OUT OF VIEW ..
...AND AN ORDINARY WALL SLOWLY RISES...
...TO REVEAL...
...THE HEART OF THE MOBILE ARMORED STRIKE KOMMAND!
IN MOMENTS, MATT PREPARES TO GIVE HIS TEAM A FINAL BRIEFING...
BETTER LISTEN UP, EVERYBODY, BECAUSE HERE'S WHAT'S COMING DOWN!
VENOM, HA--
MATT! DUANE KENNEDY HERE! WE GOT TROUBLE, MATT! BIG TROUBLE!
WHA--!?
QUIET, EVERYBODY! LET THE P.N.A. MAN SPEAK HIS PIECE!
MILES MAYHEM AND HIS HENCH--
A NEW IMAGE FORMS --OF MILES MAYHEM!
THE SCREEN! IT'S CHANGING!
WHAT YOUR DEARLY BELOVED MR KENNEDY WAS ABOUT TO SAY--
THIS IS IT, TEAM!

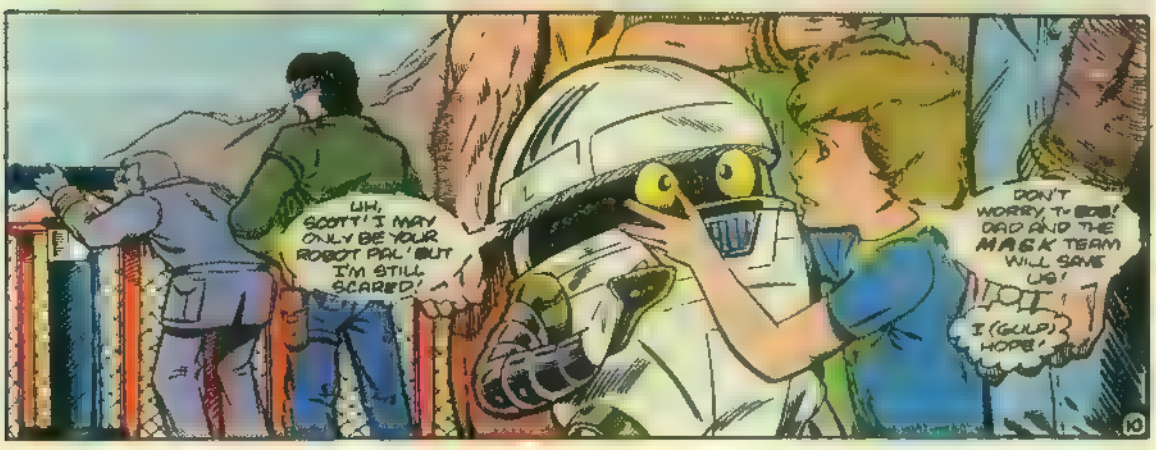
--IS THAT I THE INGENIOUS MIKE'S MAYHEM, GLORIOUS LEADER OF VENOM, HOVE, WITH THE AID OF MY CONFEDERATES CLIFF DAGGER AND SLY RAX, JUST STORMED THE MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MONUMENT!
AND TAKEN ALL THE STAFF AND SIGHTSEERS HERE HOSTAGE!
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT AWFUL TIMING! SCOTT IS OUT VISITING MOUNT RUSHMORE TODAY AS PART OF A CLASS HISTORY PROJECT!
*MATT'S ADOPTION
JULES, MAIN LEADER, THAT SAVE TIMONIOUS DO-GOODER MATT TRAKKER, SURRENDERS HIMSELF TO ME WITHIN THREE HOURS' TIME--
--I WILL USE THE MOLECULAR-DISASSEMBLER MOUNTED ON MY SWITCHBLADE COPTER TO OBLITERATE MOUNT RUSHMORE AND THE CAPTIVE TOURISTS ALONG WITH IT.
INCLUDING, OF COURSE, MATT TRAKKER'S INSUFFERABLE LITTLE BROTHER!
MATT! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO, BRUCE!
I'M GOING TO DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO!
BUT, MATT! HE SAID THREE HOURS! HOW CAN WE POSS--
WE'LL LOAD THUNDERHAWK, CONDOR, AND THE RHINO RIG ONTO THE JET TRANS PORT!
COME ON! I'VE ALREADY GOT A PLAN

"...WE CAN BRAINSTORM THE DETAILS ON THE WAY!"
HE AIN'T GONNA COME, BOSS! WHY SHOULD HE? HE AIN'T NO DUMMY! HE KNOWS WE'RE JUST GONNA RUB HIM OUT!


MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T COME, RAK, IF THE SITUATION WERE REVERSED! BUT TRAKKER WILL COME--

--EVEN IF HIS CHANCES OF SAVING THOSE PEOPLE AND GETTING OUT ALIVE ARE NO BETTER THAN A THOUSAND TO ONE!
EH--? THAT SOUND IS IT--?

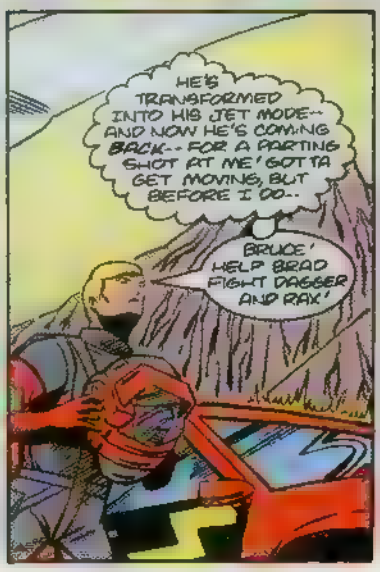
HERE THEY COME


UH, SCOTT! I MAY ONLY BE YOUR ROBOT PAL! BUT I'M STILL SCARED!
DON'T WORRY, T-BOB! DAD AND THE MASK TEAM WILL SAVE US!
I (GULP) HOPE!

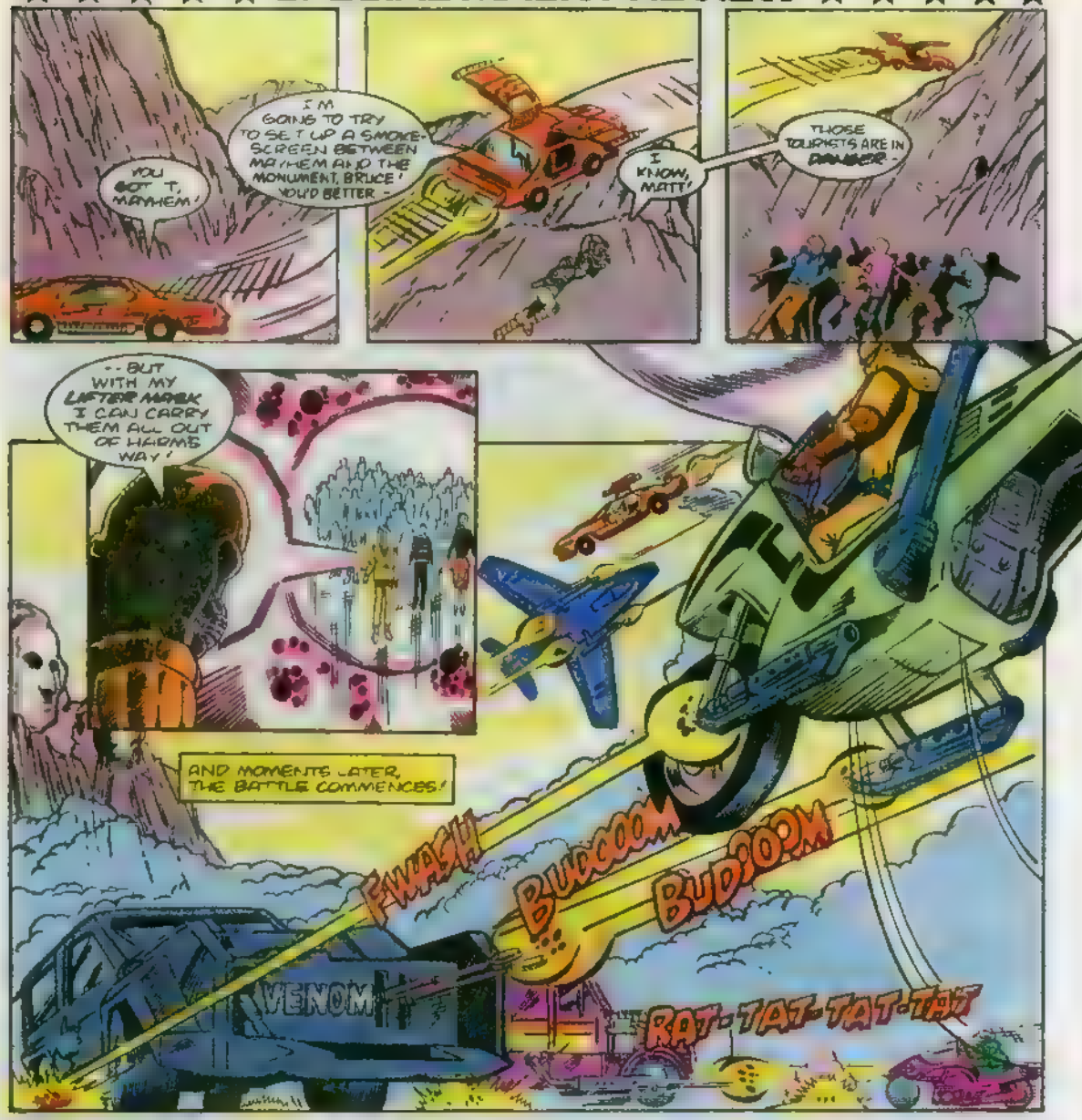
WITHIN MOMENTS...
ALL RIGHT, MAYHEM! WE SURRENDER!
MY, MY! HOW WONDERFUL! AND I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT THAT OBNOXIOUS BRUCE GATO ALONG WITH YOU! HOW VERY THOUGHTFUL! NOW WE CAN KILL BOTH OF YOU--
- BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH OUR PLAN TO ATOMIZE MOUNT RUSHMORE!
YOU FIEND! YOU FROM--
OKAY GUY!
LET'S SEE YOU PUT THEIR LIGHTS OUT!
HO HO! MY PLEASURE!
THESE STILETTO DARTS FROM MY MASK'LL--
THOOOOOM!
HUH-?!? WHAT IN THE--
WHEW! JUST IN TIME!
CURSES AND DOUBLE CURSES!
AN ANTI-MATTER EXPLOSION COMING FROM BEYOND THE CLIFF SIDE... I BET I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THAT!

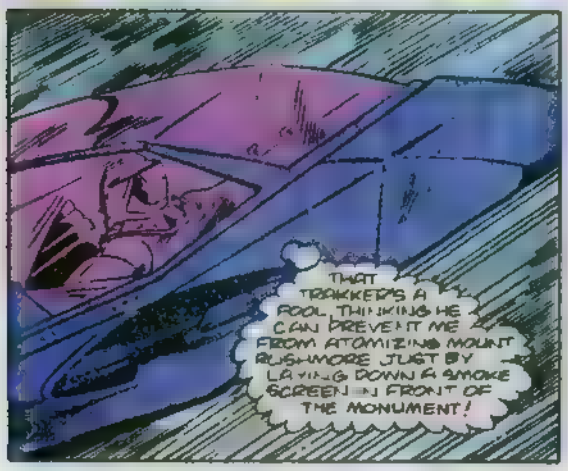
IT'S THAT BLASTED BRAD TURNER ON HIS CONDOR CYCLE - AND HE'S RIDING UP THE CLIFF WALL -- COMING STRAIGHT AT US!
--OR BOTH ME AND CONDOR ARE LIABLE TO END UP SPLATTERED ALL OVER THIS CLIFF!
GOTTA TIME THIS CONVERSION TO COPTER MODE TO THE LAST SPLIT-SECOND--
WHEW! ALL RIGHT! NOW TO GIVE THOSE CLOWNS FROM VENOM SOMETHING TO REALLY WORRY ABOUT!
THOOM
THOOM
IT'S AN AMBUSH OF SOME KIND! WE'VE BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED!
YOU TWO KEEP THE MASK TEAM BUSY! I'LL TAKE TO THE AIR AND ATOM-BLAST MOUNT RUSHMORE TO KINGDOM COME!
BWOOM
BWOOM

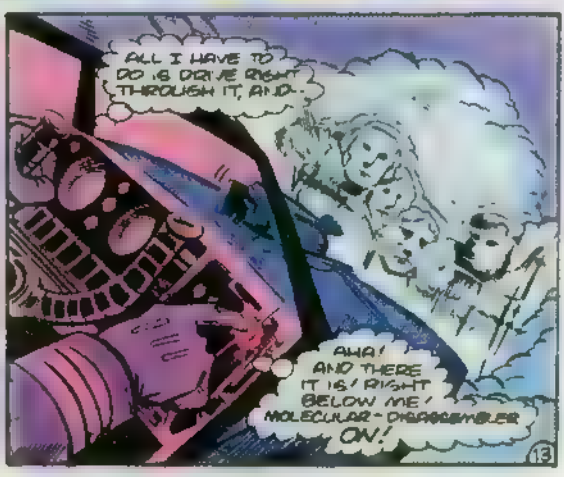
HMM-- TRAKKER'S JUST BELOW ME, GETTING INTO HIS THUNDERHAWK-- PERHAPS I'LL GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY!

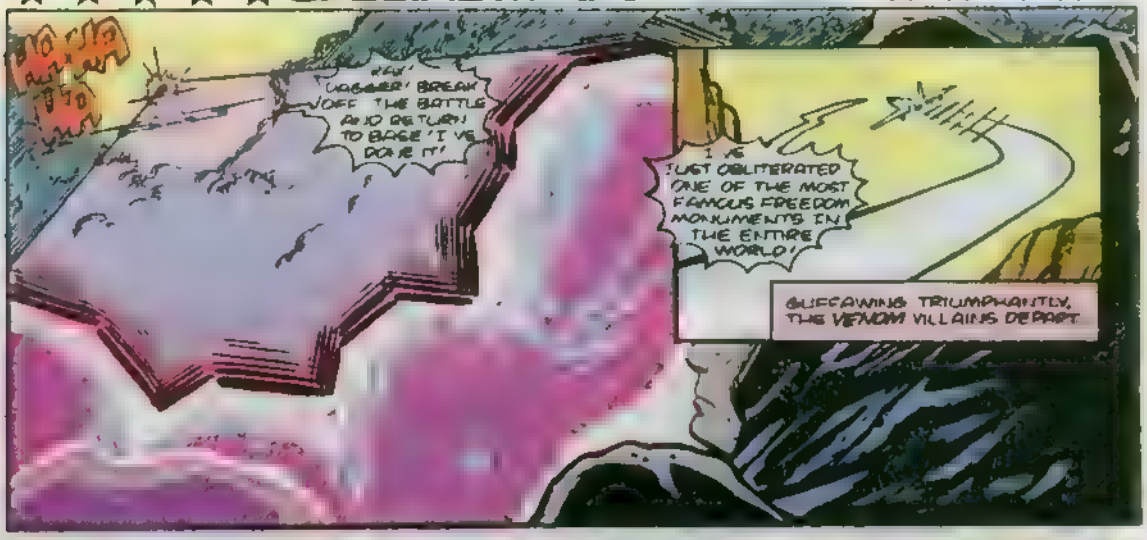

HE'S TRANSFORMED INTO HIS JET MODE-- AND NOW HE'S COMING BACK-- FOR A PARTING SHOT AT ME! GOTTA GET MOVING, BUT BEFORE I DO--
BRUCE! HELP BRAD FIGHT DAGGER AND RAX!

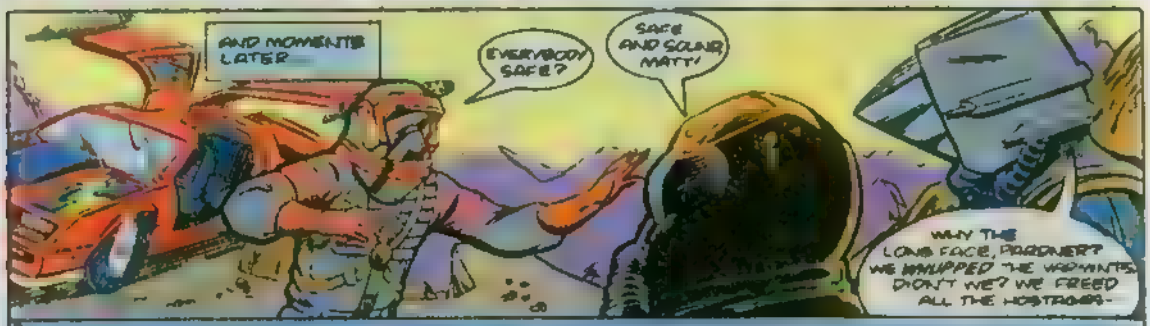
COME ON, TRAKKER-- IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TRY TO STOP ME IF YOU DARE!!

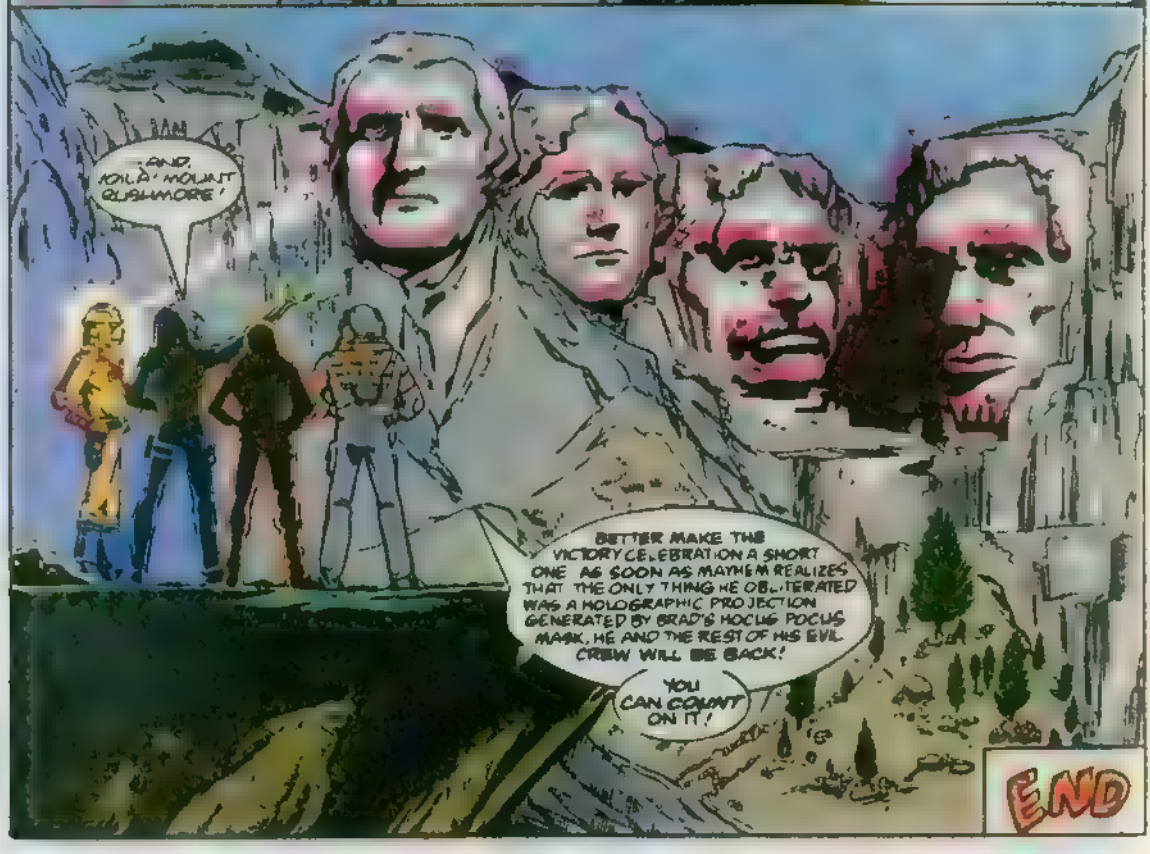

YOU GOT IT, MAYHEM!
I'M GOING TO TRY TO SET UP A SMOKE-SCREEN BETWEEN MAYHEM AND THE MONUMENT, BRUCE! YOU'D BETTER -
I KNOW, MATT!
THOSE TOURISTS ARE IN DANGER -
-- BUT WITH MY LAFFER MASK I CAN CARRY THEM ALL OUT OF HARM'S WAY!
AND MOMENTS LATER, THE BATTLE COMMENCES!
FWASH!
BUDOOM
BUDOOM
VENOM
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

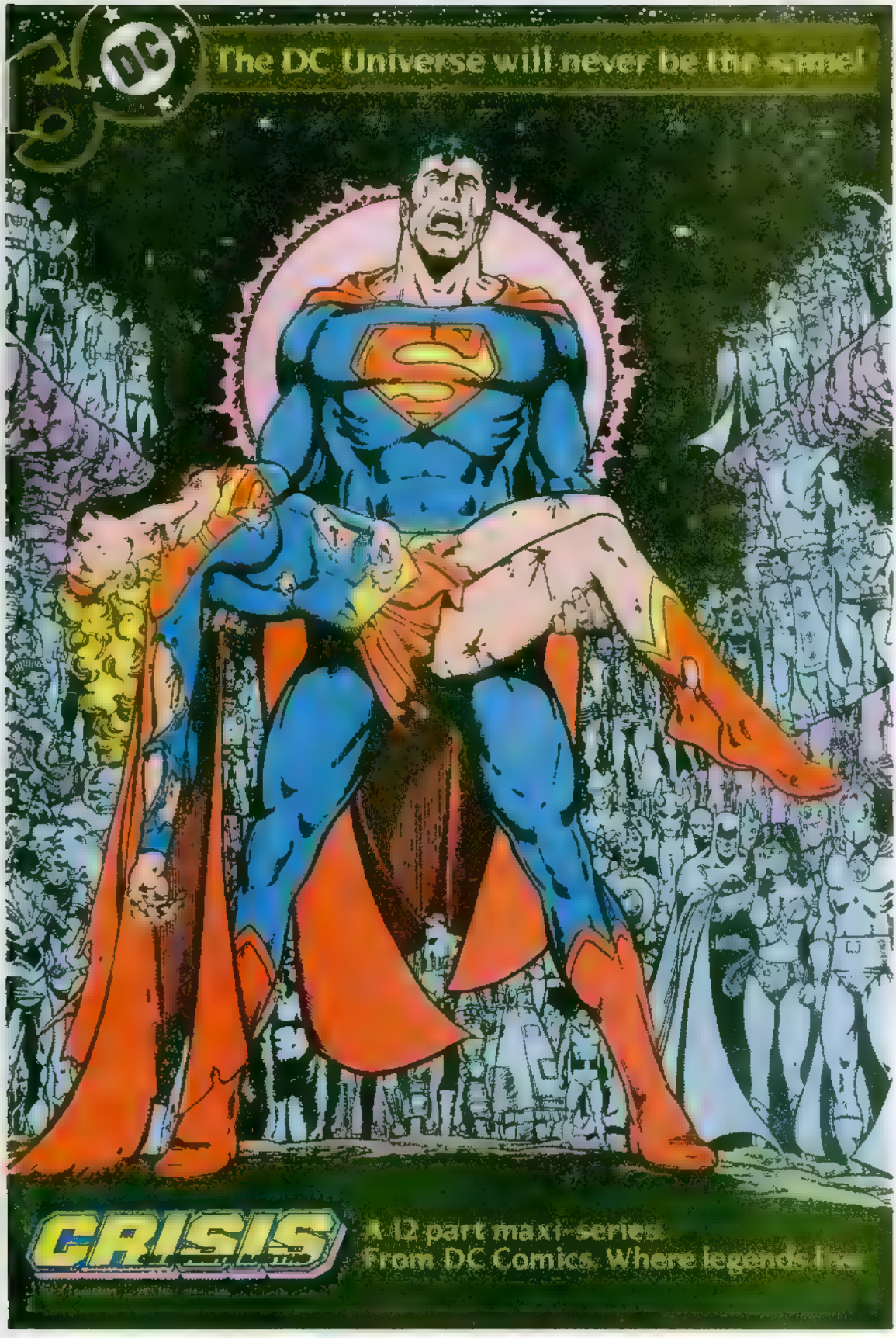

THAT TRAKKER'S A FOOL, THINKING HE CAN PREVENT ME FROM ATOMIZING MOUNT RUSHMORE JUST BY LAYING DOWN A SMOKE SCREEN IN FRONT OF THE MONUMENT!

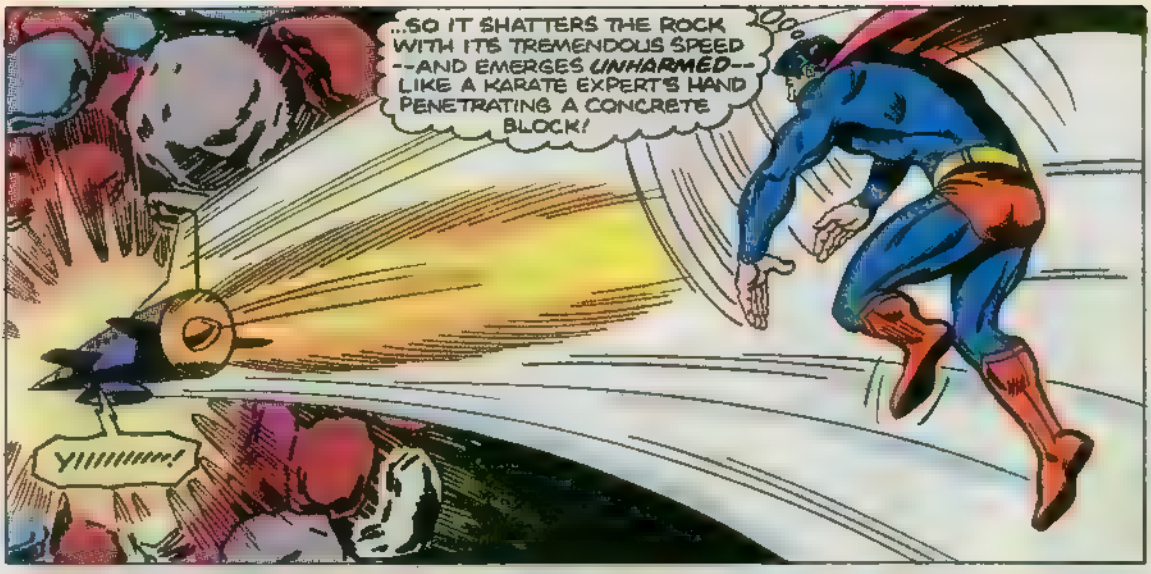

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DRIVE RIGHT THROUGH IT, AND-
AHA! AND THERE IT IS! RIGHT BELOW ME! MOLECULAR-DISASSEMBLER ON!


HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS!
HEH! LOOSER! BREAK OFF THE BATTLE AND RETURN TO BASE! I'VE DONE IT!
I JUST OBLITERATED ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS FREEDOM MONUMENTS IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!
GLEEFULLY TRIUMPHANTLY, THE VENOM VILLAINS DEPART


AND MOMENTS LATER...
EVERYBODY SAFE?
SAFE AND SOUND, MATT!
WHY THE LONG FACE, PRODNERT? WE WHUPPED THE VROMANTS, DIDN'T WE? WE FREED ALL THE HOSTAGES-

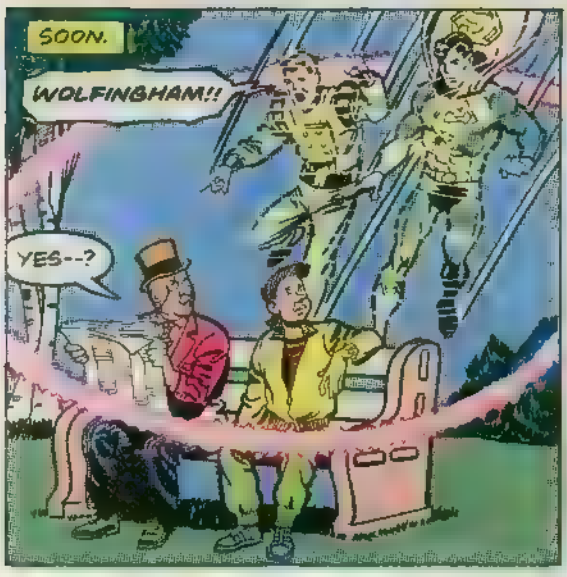

AND, VOILÀ! MOUNT RUSHMORE!
BETTER MAKE THE VICTORY CELEBRATION A SHORT ONE AS SOON AS MAYHEM REALIZES THAT THE ONLY THING HE OBLITERATED WAS A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION GENERATED BY BRAD'S HOCUS POCUS MASK, HE AND THE REST OF HIS EVIL CREW WILL BE BACK!
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!
END

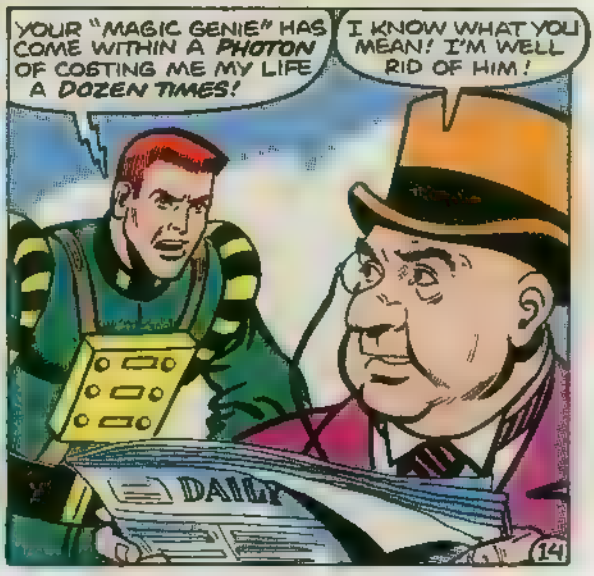

DC
The DC Universe will never be the same!
CRISIS
A 12 part maxi-series.
From DC Comics. Where legends live.


...SO IT SHATTERS THE ROCK WITH ITS TREMENDOUS SPEED --AND EMERGES *UNHARMED*-- LIKE A KARATE EXPERT'S HAND PENETRATING A CONCRETE BLOCK!
YIIIIIIIIII!

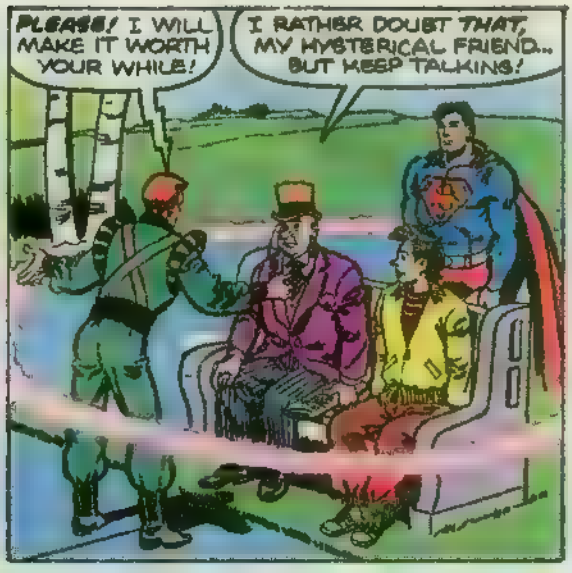
HMM! THERE ARE PLENTY OF METEORS LEFT! I'LL MAKE SURE BAX DOESN'T *HIT* ANY--
--BUT BY THE TIME I'M DONE, HE MAY WISH HE *HAD!*

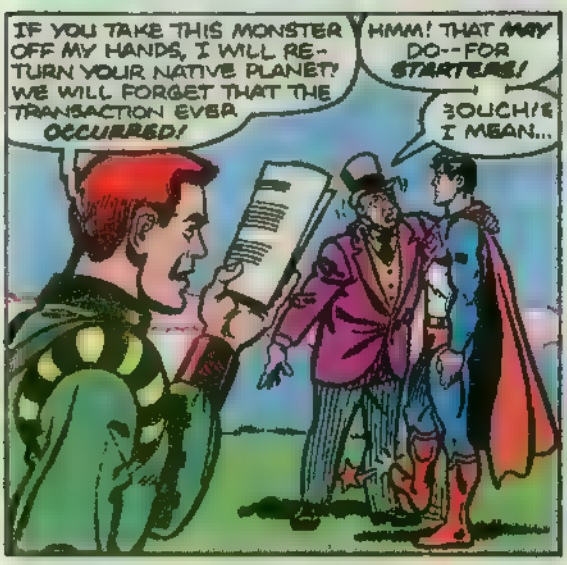
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, MASTER!


SOON.
WOLFINGHAM!!
YES--?

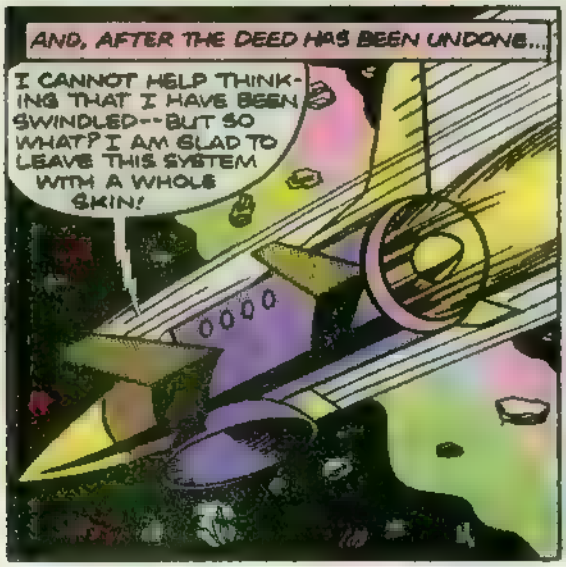

YOUR "MAGIC GENIE" HAS COME WITHIN A *PHOTON* OF COSTING ME MY LIFE A *DOZEN TIMES!*
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! I'M WELL RID OF HIM!
DAILY

ONLY YOU CAN HANDLE HIM! YOU MUST TAKE HIM BACK!
AFTER I'VE FINALLY LIBERATED MYSELF FROM THAT ALBATROSS? YOU'RE DREAMING!
DAILY PLANET

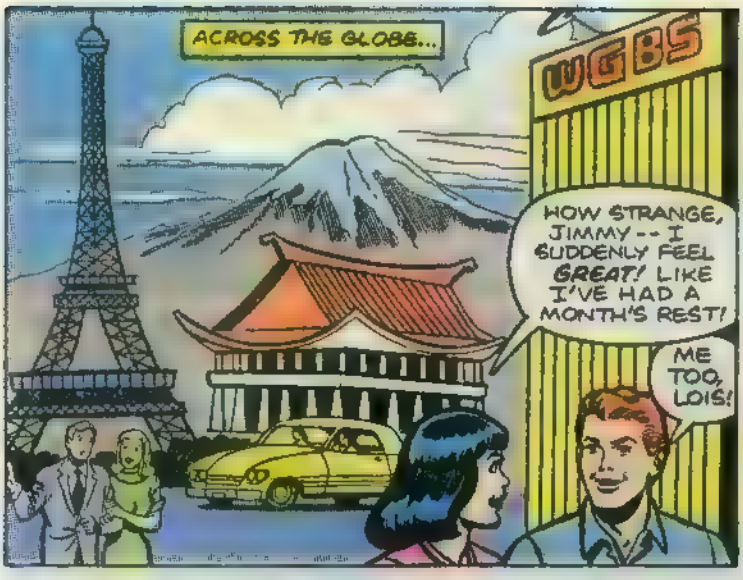

PLEASE! I WILL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE!
I RATHER DOUBT THAT, MY HYSTERICAL FRIEND.. BUT KEEP TALKING!

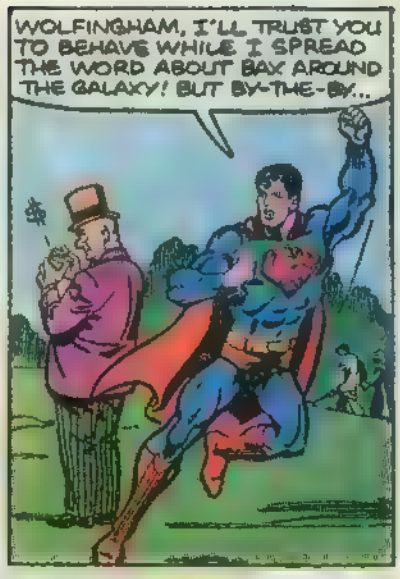

IF YOU TAKE THIS MONSTER OFF MY HANDS, I WILL RETURN YOUR NATIVE PLANET! WE WILL FORGET THAT THE TRANSACTION EVER OCCURRED!
HMM! THAT MAY DO--FOR STARTERS!
OUCH! I MEAN...

...CALL ME A SENTIMENTAL FOOL--BUT I DID SO LOVE TO SIT ON THE PORCH AND LISTEN TO THE FALLING TIRES SIZZLE ON THE SIDEWALK!
VERY WELL--I ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSITION!

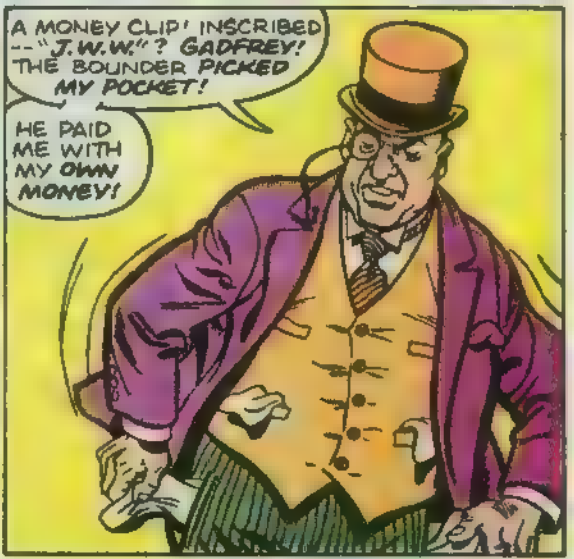

AND, AFTER THE DEED HAS BEEN UNDONE...
I CANNOT HELP THINKING THAT I HAVE BEEN SWINDLED--BUT SO WHAT? I AM GLAD TO LEAVE THIS SYSTEM WITH A WHOLE SKIN!

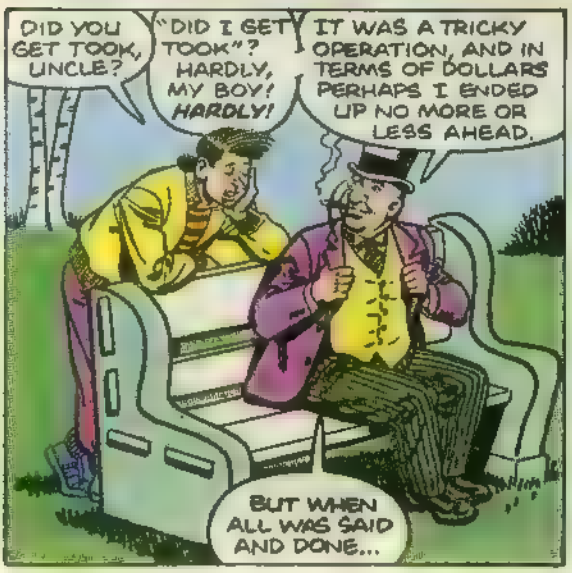
BACK ON EARTH...
CONGRATULATIONS, SUPERMAN! I SENSE WITHIN YOU SOME RAW TALENT IN THE ART OF CHICANERY!
I'LL ACCEPT THAT AS A COMPLIMENT! BUT NOW--
--LET'S RESTORE THINGS TO THEIR PROPER WORKING ORDER!


ACROSS THE GLOBE...
WGBS
HOW STRANGE, JIMMY -- I SUDDENLY FEEL GREAT! LIKE I'VE HAD A MONTH'S REST!
ME TOO, LOIS!

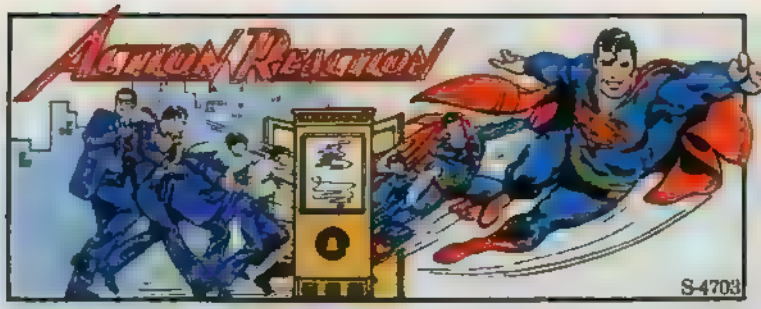

WOLFINGHAM, I'LL TRUST YOU TO BEHAVE WHILE I SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT BAX AROUND THE GALAXY! BUT BY-THE-BY..

WHEN THAT ALIEN PAID YOU, DIDN'T YOU WONDER WHERE HE GOT THAT WAD OF AMERICAN DOLLARS?
I FOUND THIS ON HIS SPACE-CRAFT!
EH?


A MONEY CLIP! INSCRIBED --"J.W.W."? GADFREY! THE BOUNDER PICKED MY POCKET!
HE PAID ME WITH MY OWN MONEY!


DID YOU GET TOOK, UNCLE?
"DID I GET TOOK"? HARDLY, MY BOY! HARDLY!
IT WAS A TRICKY OPERATION, AND IN TERMS OF DOLLARS PERHAPS I ENDED UP NO MORE OR LESS AHEAD.
BUT WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE...

...WHO EMERGED WITH THE PAPERS OF OWNERSHIP TO THIS LOVELY LITTLE PROPERTY? HA HA HA!
NEXT ISSUE: "MAY THE BEST WORLD WIN" and "TOMORROW IS CANCELLED"



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Dear Julie and Bob,

The first thing I noticed about *ACTION* #569 was editor Julie Schwartz, decked out in a *Superman* uniform, smiling at me from the cover. Who can blame him for wanting to get into the act? Julie also managed to show up a couple of times in Michael J. Wolff's "Casting Call." This was an irresistible little fantasy, funny and imaginative, and a very different kind of story from "The League of Superman Watchers," Mr. Wolff's last tale. The M'Vorns are a worthy addition to DC's gallery of wonderfully weird alien creatures. The artwork by Howard Bender and Pablo Marcos was a striking improvement over their last collaboration ("Jimmy Olsen—Blob!"). There was a cleanness and elegance of line that was a joy to behold. I was also delighted by the Howard Bender-Bob Oksner cover. (Glad to see that Howard is a fellow penguin-fancier.)

The issue's lead story was an unusual and affecting drama. "The Force of Revenge" had a lot of heart and an emotional directness that made for absorbing reading. There was a gratifying attention to characterization in this story, which made an especially cogent point about the thin line that separates love from hate. Maybe *Superman*'s feelings for Lois account for his unconsciously shabby treatment of Lana, who was left in the lurch by Clark for the umpteenth time. Isn't it time for Clark to get serious with Lana, and possibly reveal his secret identity to her? Lana is a responsible, highly intelligent, beautiful woman who could do our favorite Kryptonian a lot of good!

Dennis Yee's dynamic layouts, Irv Novick's pencils, and Rodin Rodriguez's inks resulted in some original and exciting artwork. Rhaven was a run-of-the-mill demon, but his appearance was great! The art in general, and the action sequences in particular, was excellent! But then that's true for all the *Superman* books!

Lastly, thanks for printing my letter, even though you (GAK!!) spelled my name wrong. It's okay, though. Believe me, it's happened countless times before. Just don't make a habit of it, huh?

DAVID PULLEYBLANK
Box 103
Denver, IA 50622

David, it's spring when we print this letter (even though you won't see it till summer), and a young man's fancy turns to matchmaking, eh? We'll have to see if it's time for a more serious Clark/Superman-Lana affair! And we're sorry about the misspelling!—LR

*****

Dear Bob and Julie,

First of all, may I say that ye editor looked rather dapper on the cover of the July issue of *ACTION*. Personally, I think *you* should have had the part, Bob, but that's show biz, eh?

Taking the cover story first, "Casting Call" was an extremely silly idea taken to silly extremes. Which is probably why I enjoyed it so much. I can be as silly as the best of them, but I just don't get too much opportunity these days, *Ambush Bug* notwithstanding. The best part of Michael J. Wolff's yarn was the M'Vorn's dialogue. It was very witty and rather incisive in places. Bender and Marco's artwork was perfectly in accord with the mood of the story. That is, a lot of fun.

"The Force of Revenge" was a whole different kettle of aquatic life, but every bit as welcome. I was especially pleased at the emphasis on *Superman* and Lois Lane's relationship—or the lack of one. The final page was exceptionally well-written. Without overstating anything, Paul Kupperberg put across exactly the emotional vulnerability of the Man of Steel, something all too often overlooked. Just as there are many people like Tina Gerber in this world, whose feelings are cruelly overlooked by their peers, who see only the exterior. Maybe the manner of Rhaven's defeat was not totally convincing, too contrived, but that really wasn't the point. This little morality play of a sort had to have a happy ending and it did. For Tina Gerber, at least, if not for *Superman*.

DALE COE
41 Whitecross Rd.
Warrington, Cheshire WA5 1LR
England

Dale, Bob was a cover star, a good ten years ago, when he appeared on a cover, all decked out in his winter coat and hat. A free mention in these pages to anyone who can name the issue!!—LR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

Looking at the cover of #569 and at the first pages of "Casting Call," I somehow got the feeling that there must be a spectacled and bald-headed (and apparently, surprisingly well-muscled) editor somewhere who thinks he really would have deserved the part of *Superman* in a movie, no matter where it was being made. (And when I say bald-headed, I of course mean it in the most respectful way. Why, people go wild about Telly Savalas and Yul Brynner—just to mention two of the many wonderful and well-respected bald-headed men who grace the world today. Who loves ya, baby?)

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ontario, Canada M9L2R9

T.M., seriously, I thought you knew about that certain editor's well-muscled physique and equally well-known charm. He's far above those paltry sex-symbols you mentioned!—LR

*****

Dear Editor,

I thought "The Force of Revenge" was a great *Superman* story. Lois has been out of the picture for too long. Thanks for bringing her back. By the way, who is going to be Clark/*Superman*'s lady love? It gets confusing having Clark on dates with Lana while *Superman* points out that he still loves Lois. Clark's date with Lana being interrupted is the kind of thing that broke up *Supes* and Lois in the first place. But, I'd still give the story 4 stars.

"Casting Call" was funny and I also liked it. Yet it lacked the great symbolism of all the truly outstanding *Superman* sagas. I know that might sound corny, yet it is hard to make a humorous *Superman* story and have people say, "This is a great *Superman* story." I think that *Ambush Bug* falls into this problem and that it would be better if you kept him and *Superman* apart. One of the funniest parts of this story was on page 6 when the smoke entered the room and one of the aliens commented that "It is decorative. Most of this planet's larger cities contain colored air." Keep up the good work.

DAVID YOUNG
314 Beverly Blvd.
Brandon, FL 33511

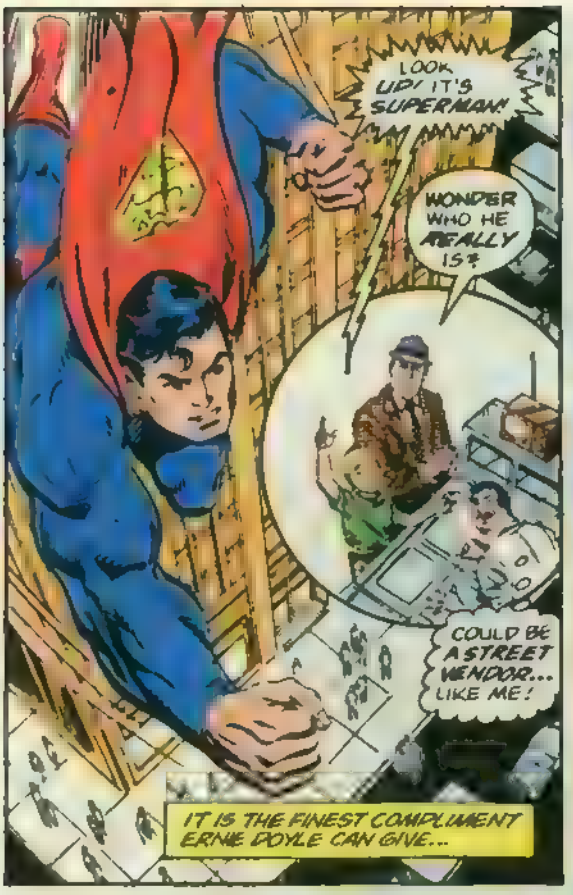
Too bad Bob wasn't around when the aliens commented on the air, David. It would have been the perfect opening for him to say, "Look, up in the sky...!"—Laurie Rozakis

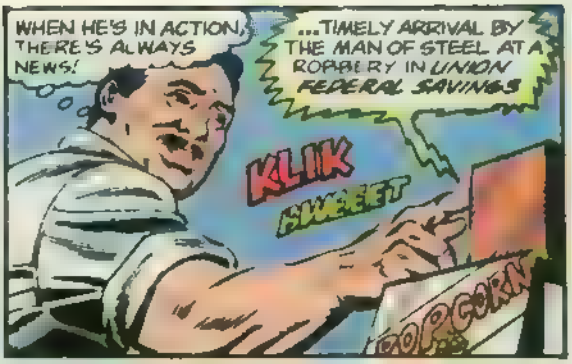
SUPERMAN

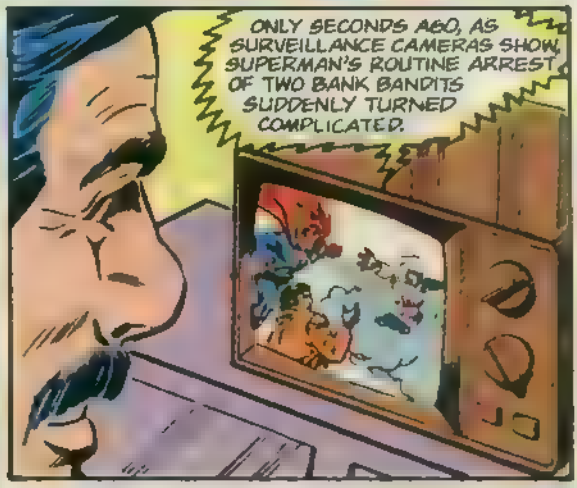
DAVID CAMPITI & KEVIN JUMAIRE
STORY
ALEX SAVIUK
PENCILS
EDUARDO BARRETO
INKS
HELEN VESIK
LETTERS
GENE D'ANGELO
COLORS
JULIUS SCHWARTZ
EDITOR

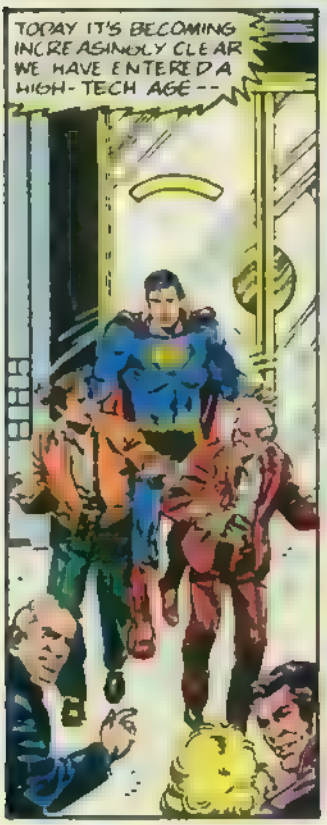
IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, STREET VENDOR ERNIE DOYLE HAS WATCHED METROPOLIS CHANGE.
SELLING EVERYTHING FROM HOT DOGS AND PRETZELS TO POPULAR PET ROCKS AND SILVER GLOVES, ERNIE HAS SEEN PROFITS RISE AND FALL.
WOOOOSH
HE HAS OBSERVED A SUPER-HERO CALLING METROPOLIS HIS HOME.
HEY! WHAT TH--
CHUNK
CHUNK
CHUNK
FIRST, HE WAS STARTLED, THEN, HE ACCEPTED. NOW, HE DREAMS.
I THOUGHT WE'D PULLED OFF THIS CAPER!
YEAH... WELL, WE'VE JUST BEEN RE-TIRED.
KROOOOM
AMAZING! WONDERFUL! SUPER!
NO... I'M TALKING ABOUT—
AHA!? I DO MAKE A HECKUVA HOT DOG!
--SUPERMAN? NAH, HIM I SEE EVERYDAY! HE SHOULD'VE MELTED THOSE TIRES INTO THE PAVEMENT WITH HIS SUPER-VISION, STICKING 'EM LIKE A CANDY APPLE!
BUT SUPES ISN'T THAT IMAGINITIVE! NOW—
"IF I WERE SUPERMAN..."

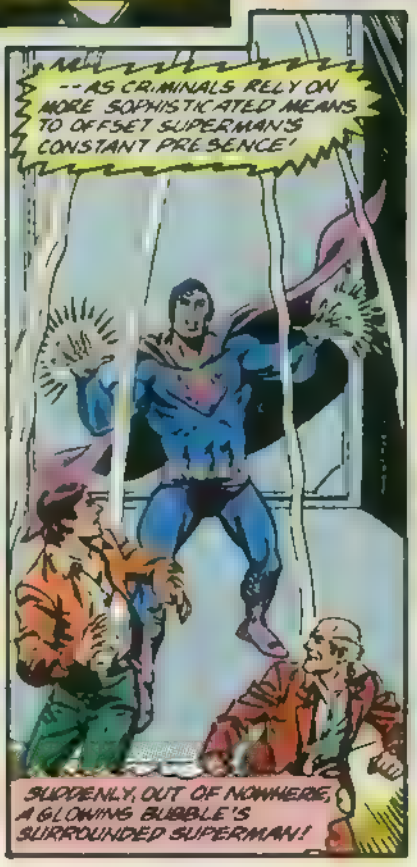
THE NEWS NEVER STOPS IN METROPOLIS, LEAVING CLARK KENT AND LANA LANG ONLY TIME FOR A SNACK...
TWO WITH KETCHUP, ERNIE.
KETCHUP--?! THAT'S NO WAY TO EAT A HOT DOG!
YOU'RE A GREAT TV ANCHOR TEAM--
--BUT THIS IS A JOB... FOR A PROFESSIONAL!
YOU'VE GOT YOUR MUSTARD...
...YOUR ONIONS...
...YOUR RELISH...
...AND YOUR SAUERKRAUT!
CAREFUL, CLARK. LAST TIME YOU ATE A FRANKFURTER LIKE THAT, WE WERE AT THE SMALLVILLE FAIR IN EIGHTH GRADE--YOU HAD A "TUMMY ACHE" FOR THREE DAYS!
ACTUALLY, I WAS OFF IN SPACE AS SUPERBOY! HMM... ERNIE'S RIGHT! THIS IS A BETTER HOT DOG!
I FELT SO SORRY FOR YOU, I DEVELOPED A "CRUSH"!
THEN ALONG CAME SUPERBOY... RIGHT?
I WAS A SILLY TEENAGER. NOW I NEED A REAL MAN, NOT SOME LIVING LEGEND. SEE YOU LATER
GOOD THING NO ONE ELSE GOT ON--
--OR I'D HAVE TO USE THAT "TUMMY ACHE" PLOY ON LANA AGAIN! I'VE SPOTTED TROUBLE!
THIS IS A JOB FOR ...
...A "LIVING LEGEND"!
2


LOOK UP! IT'S SUPERMAN!
WONDER WHO HE REALLY IS?
COULD BE A STREET VENDOR... LIKE ME!
IT IS THE FINEST COMPLIMENT ERNIE DOYLE CAN GIVE...


WHEN HE'S IN ACTION, THERE'S ALWAYS NEWS!
...TIMELY ARRIVAL BY THE MAN OF STEEL AT A ROBBERY IN UNION FEDERAL SAVINGS
KLIK
SWEEET
POPCORN


ONLY SECONDS AGO, AS SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS SHOW, SUPERMAN'S ROUTINE ARREST OF TWO BANK BANDITS SUDDENLY TURNED COMPLICATED.


TODAY IT'S BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR WE HAVE ENTERED A HIGH-TECH AGE--


--AS CRIMINALS RELY ON MORE SOPHISTICATED MEANS TO OFFSET SUPERMAN'S CONSTANT PRESENCE!
SUDDENLY, OUT OF NOWHERE, A GLOWING BUBBLE SURROUNDED SUPERMAN!

AS POLICE CORDON OFF THE AREA AND ARE HELD AT BAY BY THE ROBBERS--SUPERMAN REMAINS TRAPPED WITHIN THEIR BARRIER!
BACK, ALL O' YOU! ONE MOVE AND SOMEBODY GETS IT!
3

THE BUBBLE-BARRIER SEEMS TO HAVE SUPERMAN PERPLEXED WITH ITS AMAZING RESILENCE!
SUPES CAN'T BURROW UNDER-- HE'LL RUIN THE BANK'S VAULTS!
NOW-- IF I WERE SUPERMAN--
--I'D USE A BLAST OF HEAT VISION-- CAUSING THE BUBBLE TO EXPAND UNTIL IT POPS OPEN... JUST LIKE THE SKINS ON MY JUICY RED-HOT DOGS!
UH-OH, NO GO! THEY'D ALL COOK AS IF PLACED IN A SKILLET WITH A LID!
COPS IS BURNING!
HUH— WHAT'S SUPES UP TO?
SOON AS I STRETCH OUT MY CAPE TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AND BUILING BELOW--
--I'LL USE A BLAST OF SUPER-COLD BREATH TO TURN THE BUBBLE BRITTLE!
4
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

TERRIFIC! THE MAN OF STEEL HAS CHILLED THE BARRIER--SHATTERING IT WITH HIS SUPER-STRENGTH!
KRAAASH!!
IT'S ALL OVER NOW, FOLKS--ALL BUT THE SHOUTING!
THIS IS HOWARD FREEMAN WITH THE WGBS MINI-CAM, REPORTING LIVE IN MIDTOWN METROPOLIS.
3 P.M. THAT DAY...
HMM... IF I WERE SUPERMAN, I'D HAVE USED A GIANT SHEET OF METAL TO FLATTEN THAT METEOR LIKE A PANCAKE SPATULA, KNOCKING IT AWAY!
NOW LET'S SEE HOW HE--UH-OH! SUPERMAN "EXAMINED ITS CHEMICAL MAKEUP WITH SUPER-VISION, SLOWED IT WITH A COOL BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH, AND CARRIED IT SAFELY TO THE GROUND!
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN STOPS METEORS PLUNGE TOWARD BOLIVIA!
"BOLIVIA WILL USE THE METEOR'S RARE NATURAL RESOURCES FOR YEARS TO COME"--
EH--?
TRIP
THIS IS A GUN I'M HOLDIN' IN MY POCKET! GIVE ME YOUR MONEY--AND I WON'T SHOOT! DEAL?
S-SURE...
...IF YOU THINK YOU CAN CUT THE MUSTARD!
CLIP!
SWISH!
AND ERNIE FANTASIZES...
FINE WORK, ERNIE. YOU CERTAINLY KNOW YOUR JOB!
...DREAMS OF BEING A HERO!
6 P.M.--ERNIE SERVES HAUTE CUISINE TO FELLOW SOAP OPERA FANS...
...SO I SAID TO OFFICER ROCKWELL, "I'D BE HAPPY TO GIVE A SEMINAR: 'YOUR LUNCH, TOO, CAN BE A DEADLY WEAPON!'"
WHAT HAPPENED ON "SEARCH FOR YESTERDAY"? I MISSED IT.
ISN'T THAT ANDY SANDS A HUNK?
5

NAH, ANDY IS A WEASEL -- HE EATS HOT DOGS WITH A KNIFE AND FORK! WON'T MONA EVER LEARN--
BA-RA-RAM
LOOK AT THAT-- AN EXPLOSION!
AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE AIR...
...WE NOW CUT TO A LIVE REPORT--
WG
--AN OIL TANKER HAS OVERTURNED AND EXPLODED ON METROPOLIS BRIDGE!
FLAMES HAVE SOARED THIRTY STORIES HIGH. THE BRIDGE WAS UNDER PARTIAL REPAIRS FOR STRESS, AND ONLY ONE-LANE TRAFFIC WAS OPEN.
DAMAGE AND HEAT HAVE ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF COMMUTERS! WGBS WILL REPORT UPDATES AS THEY HAPPEN!
BACK TO YOU, CLARK...CLARK...?
IF I WERE SUPERMAN, I'D MAKE A GIANT-SIZED LID TO SNUFF THE OIL FIRE MUCH LIKE I PUT OUT A GRILL GREASE FIRE!
NAH-- THAT WOULDN'T WORK! LET ME THINK THIS OUT...
GOT IT! IF I WERE SUPERMAN, I'D FREEZE THE WATER BELOW WITH SUPER-BREATH...
CRRREAK
WHOOSSH!
6

...THEN SUCK THE OIL FIRE INTO MY SUPER-LUNGS...
...SAVE THE OIL TRUCK'S DRIVER...
...AND RACE BACK AND GRAB LOADS OF...YEAH, POPCORN!
NO SOONER THOUGHT THAN—
—DONE!!
7

WHAT I'D DO WITH IT IS EXHALE THE FIERY OIL INTO MY CAPE...
WHOOSH
POP POP POP POP POP
...POP THE POPCORN ALL NICE AND BIG...
...AND USE MY CAPE LIKE A BEANBAG SLIDE TO GET PEOPLE SAFELY OFF THE BRIDGE AND ACROSS THE ICE...
...WHILE I REPAIR THE BRIDGE!
AHA! HE'S DOING IT!
FIRST, HE IS STARTLED. THEN HE ACCEPTS.
NOW HE DREAMS...
WE...WE'VE DONE IT, SUPES! FINALLY, I GOT IT RIGHT!
...DREAMS OF BEING A HERO.
NEXT DAY...
YESSIR, SUPES AND I-- WE BOTH SAVED METROPOLIS! COME 'N' TASTE HOW!
THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE, LOIS-- BUT THE STUFF TASTES GREAT!
TRY THIS POPCORN THAT SAVED METROPOLIS!
HI, MR. KENT! TRY SOME POPCORN-- THE CHOICE OF SUPERMAN HIMSELF!
DON'T MIND IF I DO. HOW'S BUSINESS?
GREAT--POPCORN'S MY BIGGEST SELLER! AFTER ALL, SUPERMAN CERTAINLY KNOWS HIS JOB--
--JUST AS I KNOW MINE!
I'M NUMBER 1
THE END!

MEANWHILE...

The DC softball team, the Bullets, kicked off the 1985 season with a pizza party pep rally in the Production Department one afternoon in mid-May. It was the day of the first game of the season and team captain Bob Rozakis was looking forward to getting the team out there. Unfortunately, it rained and the game was cancelled.

"This is incredible," said Bob. "The major leagues play over 500 games this year without a rainout, but we get washed away the first day. This could be an omen that the water shortage in New York will be ended as long as I keep scheduling games."

But Bob's dismal forecast about the weather did not come true. A week later, the Bullets took the field against **The Nation** and, despite a valiant ten-run comeback in the last inning to tie the game, lost it 21-20. "Not exactly what you'd call a pitcher's duel," mused Bob, one of the pitchers in question. "Still, it was good to see the team get a lot of hits and put together a big inning when we were down 20-10."

The Bullets is a team made up from all parts of the DC staff with a few freelancers and "friends of the family" included in the mix. Not surprisingly, it is Bob's own Production Department that is best represented on the team: John Holiwski, Helen Ramirez, Helen Vesik, and Muffy Greenough were joined this year by fellow productioneers Lisa Saladino and Julia Schick. "It may look like Bob demands that we play softball, but that isn't the case," said one production person who preferred to remain anonymous. "Mr. Nice Guy just happens to hire people who like to play. I think it was the first thing he asked me when I applied for a job."

The business end of the company is represented by Marketing Director Bruce Bristow and Director of Foreign Rights Chantal d'Aulnis, plus Robin Phelps, Bonnie Miller, and Linda Robak. ("Don't talk about the number of production people on the team," points out Bob. "Didn't anybody notice that half of Bruce's department is on the team too?") And Walter Wang, owner of Comics Unlimited Ltd., one of DC's direct distributors, ranks as one of our favorite "friends of the family" when game time rolls around.

The Editorial Department is represented by Len Wein and Barbara Randall, with freelancers Bob Smith, Karl Kesel, Phil Clarke, Shawn McManus, Ashley Tillman, and Tom Hill adding their skills on the field as well as contributing their writing and art talents to our books.

Robyn McBryde, known to her teammates as "Shake McBake," is the team's co-captain. It was Robyn who organized the pep rally, as well as last year's Friday afternoon picnic game against DC's sister company, Licensing Company of America. "Which we won," Robyn hastens to point out. "LCA is itching for a rematch this year and we're ready for them."

"Softball at DC is lots of fun," says Rozakis, "and a tradition that dates back to 1976, when the team played a single game against Marvel. Bob Smith and I are the only veterans of that year's team. Len Wein played in that game too, but he played for them. DC won the game, by the way."

These days the team doesn't win too many games, but it doesn't seem to matter to the players. "We're out there to have fun," says Bob. "We've played against teams that seem to care only about having a winning record, doing everything from rearranging their batting order at convenient times to blatant cheating just to win. I don't usually bother pointing out when I catch them doing it. If winning means that much to them, I feel sorry for them. Our guys are out there to have a good time and enjoy being together ... and we do!"

Guest Meanwhile

Several weeks ago, I felt impelled to join a conversation I'd overheard between two seemingly intelligent young ladies. It seemed that the one that was doing the most talking absolutely forbade her children to read any comics; she said it was a waste of time. The other woman simply nodded her head in dumb assent. Unable to restrain myself any longer, I stepped between them and proceeded to enlighten them on the benefits of comic book reading.

I told them of how, while other mothers were wondering why Johnny couldn't read, comics led me to an 11.4 reading level in the sixth grade. I told them of how, while many of my peers were joining gangs and experimenting with drugs and alcohol, I was building science fair projects and assisting the school librarians. This, I told them, was due to the interest in science and reading that comics instilled in me. I told them how comic books fired me with a love for drawing and painting, and how this helped me pass the entrance exam for the High School of Art and Design. I told them how the stories in these comics filled me with awe and wonder, and stirred my imagination to the point where I enrolled in several creative writing classes in high school and college. I told them of the many art awards I've won from schools, of the stories I've had published, of the artwork I've sold. I told them of how comics sparked my interest in fields like computer science, veterinary medicine, police science, history, and even cybernetics.

Then, as I finally left them, I looked back over my shoulder and spoke to them in my most solemn and wise manner: "Everyone and everything in life needs nourishment. Young minds thrive, not only on textbooks and homework, but on stimuli and adventure. Comic books can be a springboard for a young mind. Short travels into these amazing and fun worlds of fantasy, in the long run, can help prepare [young people] for the real world in which they'll spend the rest of their lives."

Arnaldo Lopez Jr.
128 Ryerson Street
Brooklyn, NY 11205

DC ON SALE WEEK CHECK OF AUGUST 29 LIST

☐ **DC Challenge 1:** Can you solve it before we do? A maxi-series round-robin of mystery and action with Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and Adam Strange!

☐ **Action Comics 573:** J. Wilbur Wolfingham has sold the Earth!

☐ **Wonder Woman 328:** The Senate probes General Darnell's intervention in foreign affairs!

☐ **Mask 1:** A mini-series featuring the forces of MASK vs. VENOM! As seen on TV!

☐ **Crisis on Infinite Earths 9:** The super-villains team up to remake the world in their own image!

☐ **Tales of the Teen Titans 60:** Beginning the reprints of the Trigon saga!

☐ **Me and Joe Priest:** A graphic novel set on an earth with a dying human race and a man with a mission!

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